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No. 108

House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. COLE).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 13, 2004.

I hereby appoint the Honorable TOM COLE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 20, 2004, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) for 5 minutes.

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED FOR REPUBLICANS AND THEIR SPECIAL INTERESTS

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, over the past couple of weeks, President Bush has attempted to turn attention away from his dismal domestic record by scaring Americans into believing his administration is the only administration that can keep them safe and by proposing a litany of new domestic programs without any specifics on what they entail and how he would pay for them.

The President hopes Americans forgot 9/11 happened on his watch, that he

and his administration refused to listen to his own terrorism expert, Richard Clarke, who warned that the possibility of a terrorist attack needed to be taken seriously. President Bush also hopes Americans forgot that it took him several months to back the Department of Homeland Security, time that could have been better used securing our ports and borders. And now, after more than a month of saying he would not support giving complete budgetary authority to a newly created intelligence director, the President is now moving closer to that 9/11 Commission recommendation. But closer is not good enough. Time is of the essence and the President continues to sidestep these critical homeland security issues. His latest proposal only gives the new director control over 70 percent of our Nation's intelligence budget.

Of course, the Republican leadership here in Congress ignores the urgent need to act on the 9/11 Commission recommendations. Last week, Majority Leader TOM DELAY told reporters that he thought it was, and I quote, highly inappropriate to call for immediate passage of the 9/11 Commission recommendations. I guess the majority leader would prefer we continue to delay. It has been 3 years. How much longer would the majority leader like us to wait?

Mr. Speaker, Republicans also would like the American people to forget that they have been doing the work of America's corporate and special interests for the last 4 years to the detriment of the best interests of the middle class.

Senator KERRY and congressional Democrats will take our country in a new direction and put the middle class first. Despite what President Bush and congressional Republicans promise over the next few months, they will continue to put the narrow interests of the few ahead of the middle class. Let us just look at their record over the

last 4 years. Republicans have accomplished many of the goals corporate interests have set forth with no concern over how these goals impact middle class Americans.

The Republican mission has been accomplished for companies seeking tax breaks for shipping jobs overseas, but not for workers. We have lost more than one million jobs. This administration still says outsourcing American jobs is a good thing, and they still insist on giving companies tax breaks that ship American jobs overseas. But profits are record high at Halliburton. If only Bush and congressional Republicans fought half as hard for the middle class as they have for Halliburton's no-bid contracts, maybe middle class families would not be hurting so badly.

The Republican mission has been accomplished for drug companies but not for our seniors. Seniors are still splitting their pills in half because prescription drug prices have soared so high. The Republican mission has been accomplished for insurance companies but not for families struggling with high health care costs. While premiums skyrocket, insurance companies continue to rake in record profits.

The Republican mission has been accomplished for big oil companies, not for middle class families struggling with the record high cost of gas. Average families are paying \$580 more in gas prices while oil profits rise and the Saudi royal family profits. Bush has made America more dependent on foreign oil and failed to invest in alternative technologies and conservation.

Mr. Speaker, in looking at this record, why should Americans believe President Bush and congressional Republicans would change their emphasis away from the special interests to the middle class in the future? Republican policies have squeezed middle class families. While earnings for middle class families have fallen over the last 4 years, health care costs have increased by more than \$2,000, education

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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costs are up more than \$1,200, and energy costs are up 40 percent. Despite the Republican rhetoric, their actual record is clear. Why should Americans expect anything different from them in the future?

THE WAR ON TERROR, CONTINUED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 20, 2004, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. STEARNS. I would say to my colleague that the misery index, inflation and unemployment, when added together is the lowest it has been in the last series of Presidents, even going back to Jimmy Carter. So I think the Bush administration is doing a good job.

But this morning, Mr. Speaker, I am observing the third anniversary of 9/11. This is the third year since Islamic terrorists hijacked four passenger planes and killed 3,000 innocent Americans. We all know that. We will never forget those who perished on that day and our prayers are forever with them and their families. In the 3 years since September 11, we have overthrown terrorist-friendly regimes in Afghanistan and Iraq, we have killed thousands of terrorists, frozen their assets, dismantled potential weapons of mass destruction and coordinated a worldwide war on terror. We will never forget the sacrifices made by our military men and women and their families in this war on terror.

Yet despite our successes, Mr. Speaker, we still face a mortal danger. The world was reminded of the threat posed by Islamic terrorists when 90 people were killed in two simultaneous plane crashes that are suspected to have been blown up by Chechen bombers. And just a week after these planes crashed, Chechen thugs took over a Russian school and killed over 300 Russians. Nearly half of the 340 dead were children. These terrorists kept hundreds of children, along with parents who were bringing them in for their first day of school, in a sweltering gymnasium where the heat was unbearable. To make matters worse, these terrorists refused to allow deliveries of food and water. For 3 days they did not let these innocent people use the bathroom. For 3 days they threatened them constantly with death. Mr. Speaker, they made good on their promise.

We must ask ourselves, what kind of depraved animal attacks innocent women and children, holds them hostage and treats them with complete contempt as human beings? We learned 3 years ago that these terrorists are perfectly willing to kill women and children.

A recent article in Atlantic Monthly revealed that certain Muslim clerics and al Qaeda justify the murder of defenseless women and children in their worldwide jihad. The same article also reported that al Qaeda wants to kill 4

million Americans. This is what we are dealing with, a ruthless, remorseless force that will stop at nothing to accomplish their final end, the death of the West. This is yet another example of these Muslim terrorists using bloodshed to influence elections.

A survivor of the Russian terror told a newspaper that she asked the militants why the captives were taken. They replied, "Because you vote for your Putin." Another freed hostage said a terrorist told her, "If Putin doesn't withdraw forces from Chechnya and doesn't free our arrested brothers, we'll blow everything up."

A few months ago, al Qaeda bombed a Spanish train in the hopes of overthrowing the pro-American government. They accomplished their goal. Somehow I doubt the Russian people will react in the same way. They are in mourning, but all indications are that they will rise to fight this terror with resolve and determination. President Putin admitted to the Russian people that he has been weak against the threat of terror. Russia has been dealing with Chechen terrorism for nearly a decade. Yet the recent school murders may have finally served as a wakeup call.

President Bush extended his deepest sympathy to the Russian people and we do as well. Now we welcome the Russian government to our international fight against these terrorists.

Mr. Speaker, a couple of months ago, President Putin revealed that Russian intelligence services learned that Saddam Hussein while he was in power was planning attacks on American interests abroad and on America itself. This information still did not persuade the Russian leadership to fully support our international war on terror, but now President Putin and the Russian people understand what is finally at stake.

Some nations and politicians have been reluctant to join us in our war on terror, but no one is safe from these terrorists. Their faith is uncompromising and their violence is unreasoning. They proudly proclaim that they love death. Mr. Speaker, if we have learned anything from the lessons of September 11 and 3 years of our war on terror, it is this, we must kill them where they are before they reach our shores. And if they are so willing to die for their twisted cause, then we must be willing to accommodate them.

NEW OVERTIME RULES THREATEN PAY CUT TO MIDDLE CLASS FAMILIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 20, 2004, the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to an impending pay cut to middle class families. As my colleagues here in the Congress know, the House

voted last week on a bipartisan basis to stop a new policy that President Bush has put in place to change the definition of who qualifies for overtime pay.

For years it has been clear that in certain types of work you would earn time and a half pay for every additional hour you work if it is more than 40 hours in 1 week.

Overtime pay is not a minor thing to these families. It often accounts for more than 25 percent of middle class families' paychecks.

It helps foremen, assistant managers, journalists, registered nurses, and workers who perform relatively small amounts of supervisory or administrative work. It helps salespeople who perform some amount of work outside the office, chefs, nursery school teachers, workers in the financial services industry, insurance claim adjusters, funeral directors and embalmers, law enforcement officers, athletic trainers and many others from all different parts of the workforce.

But the Bush administration has changed all of that and 6 million middle class families are now at risk of losing their overtime pay.

Democrats in Congress have been leading the fight to stop the President and to stop the pay cut, but the leaders in Congress and the White House are doing everything in their power to see that we do not win.

The whole issue is a very curious thing.

The President looked out at our economy, at the mounting job losses, at the declining real wages and the rising costs of health care and college tuition, and he saw trouble. He believed that the threat to the middle classes was that they were earning too much overtime pay, and he ordered the Department of Labor to devise a scheme that would allow employers to force their employees to work the overtime hours but not receive the overtime pay.

It was not a popular plan. The Department of Labor received tens of thousands of comments from the public opposing it. Lawmakers received calls and letters and e-mails from our constituents opposing the plan. In fact, the department had to revise its proposed changes to try and, quote, make it fairer. Their first plan would have taken overtime pay away from 8 million families. This plan takes it away from 6 million. It still is not fair and it is not the answer to what ails our economy.

But even though the plan was unpopular, the President knew he could count on his friends in Congress to withstand the public opposition.

Late last year, the Senate, in a bipartisan vote, voted to stop the President's plan, and the House cast a procedural vote to support the Senate's provision. But when the final bill made it out of Congress and went to the President, the Republican leadership in the House and the Senate had stripped the bill of the amendment that would have blocked the President's overtime pay cut.

That is where we are again.

Last week, on a bipartisan basis, the House voted to stop the President's overtime pay cut, which went into effect on August 23. It was a pretty big vote for a controversial issue: 223 voted against the President, including 22 Republicans, and 193 voted for the President's plan, all Republicans. Now the Senate is going to take up the issue.

But already aides to House leaders like Majority Leader TOM DELAY have indicated publicly that they will not let this amendment stay in the final bill that goes to the President for signature. Even though the majority of the House voted to stop the President's overtime pay cut, the President's allies are here to prevent the majority will of the House from prevailing.

Mr. Speaker, what is wrong with the current leadership in this Congress? They do not respect the will of the majority.

You know, sometimes it works just the other way. Take the vote on Medicare last year, one of the most controversial pieces of legislation to come before this body. The President's plan was crafted and designed for the drug companies and the insurance companies, even though it was supposed to be for seniors to help them pay for the high cost of valuable prescription drugs. But the Medicare bill does nothing to slow the rising prices of prescription drugs for seniors.

When the bill was brought to the House floor in November last year, those of us who opposed the bill were winning. When the clock ran out and the time was up for the vote to be ended, we were winning. The Medicare bill was going to be defeated. But the Republicans had another idea.

□ 1245

They refused to bring the vote to a close. Twenty minutes went by, a normal time for a vote. We were winning. An hour went by; we were winning. Two hours went by; we were still winning. By this time, early in the morning, the President had been woken up to make phone calls, to help in the feverish effort to twist congressional arms. One Congressman said afterwards that he had been offered a bribe by a congressional leader for his vote, a matter that is still under investigation by the FBI and the House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct.

Finally, after nearly 3 hours, one of the longest votes to be held in the history of Congress, the President's allies turned enough votes; and they proceeded to pass the drug companies' Medicare bill by a slim majority. And that bill is now law.

Whether it is protecting overtime pay of the middle class or protecting seniors from the drug companies' Medicare law, or countless other issues, the current leaders in Congress do not respect or honor the majority here in the Congress who support these measures. They will not respect the will of the

majority of Americans who are represented by those Members of Congress, over half of the country expressing their view that they do not want that law to go into effect, whether it is to cut overtime pay or whether it is the phony prescription drug bill that does not provide the benefits that our seniors need and have come to expect.

This is one of the many things that is wrong with the way the House of Representatives is being run under the current leadership, and it is one of the things that must change come this November.

The House and Senate should respect the will of the majority of its Members on these issues of overtime pay and middle-class prescription drug benefits.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLE). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 46 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ADERHOLT) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: "Glorious things are said of You, Lord God, before the nations!"

This weekend from the pulpits, choirs and cantors across this Nation rang out the freedom of worship enjoyed by the American people.

Now, as the work of the 108th Congress ensues this week, may freedom of speech be modeled in the House of Representatives.

May respect for parliamentary law, civil debate and good order be strengthened in the legislative branch of government here and in other democratic countries around the world.

In modeling such behavior, we give You glory, Lord, and become a sign of Your glory to other nations.

Guide the work of Your people, now and forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Guam (Mr.

BORDALLO) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BORDALLO led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1368. An act to authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr. (posthumously) and his widow Coretta Scott King in recognition of their contributions to the Nation on behalf of the civil rights movement.

S. Con. Res. 127. Concurrent resolution representing the sense of Congress that the President should designate September 11 as a national day of voluntary service, charity, and compassion.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 10, 2004.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on September 10, 2004 at 9:25 a.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 361.

That the Senate agreed to House amendments S. 2634.

Appointments:
Helping to Enhance the Livelihood of People (HELP).

Around the Globe Commission.
Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Advisory Panel.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAH, L,
Clerk of the House.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 10, 2004.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on September 10, 2004 at 11:55 a.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 3908.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAHL,
Clerk of the House.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 10, 2004.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on September 10, 2004 at 1 p.m. and said to contain a message from the President whereby he transmits a copy of a notice extending the emergency as a result of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAHL,
Clerk of the House.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN TERRORIST ATTACKS— MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 108-212)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1622(d), provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the Federal Register and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. Consistent with this provision, I have sent to the Federal Register the enclosed notice, stating that the emergency declared with respect to the terrorist attacks on the United States of September 11, 2001, is to continue in effect for an additional year.

The terrorist threat that led to the declaration on September 14, 2001, of a national emergency continues. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue in effect after September 14, 2004, the national emergency with respect to the terrorist threat.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, September 10, 2004.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

RECORD votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

SALUTING THE LIFE AND COURAGE OF THE LATE COMMANDER LLOYD "PETE" BUCHER

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 407) saluting the life and courage of the late Commander Lloyd "Pete" Bucher, United States Navy (retired), who commanded the U.S.S. *Pueblo* (AGER-2) at the time of its capture by North Korea on January 23, 1968.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 407

Whereas on January 28, 2004, Commander Lloyd "Pete" Bucher, United States Navy (retired), died and was subsequently buried with honors at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery in Point Loma, San Diego, California;

Whereas Lloyd Bucher was appointed as a commissioned officer in the Navy in June 1953 and in May 1967 was assigned command of the U.S.S. *Pueblo* (AGER-2), an auxiliary light cargo ship designated as an environmental research vessel;

Whereas the U.S.S. *Pueblo*, while under the command of Commander Bucher and in international waters conducting an intelligence mission off the coast of North Korea, was attacked by three North Korean torpedo boats and a North Korean sub chaser on January 23, 1968;

Whereas the U.S.S. *Pueblo* was armed only with two .50-caliber machine guns, and the attack resulted in the death of one Navy sailor and the capture of Commander Bucher, his crew, and the U.S.S. *Pueblo*;

Whereas Commander Bucher and his crew were starved and tortured for 11 months, and were repeatedly beaten, burned on steam radiators, and otherwise brutally treated by their North Korean captors;

Whereas Commander Bucher bore the brunt of the wrath of the North Koreans;

Whereas crewman James Kell said, "We were all beaten, we all were tortured. But [Commander Bucher] had it double, triple, quadruple what we got.;"

Whereas crewman Stu Russell said, "[Commander Bucher] was a giant. No matter who did what, he was always punished. I simply don't know where he got the strength and courage to go through what he did.;"

Whereas on December 23, 1968, the crew of the U.S.S. *Pueblo* was released, some of whom were crippled or nearly blind because of the brutality and malnourishment they endured;

Whereas Commander Bucher retired from the Navy in 1973; and

Whereas Commander Bucher is survived by his wife, Rose, their two sons, and several grandchildren: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) salutes the life and courage of the late Commander Lloyd "Pete" Bucher, United States Navy (retired), who commanded the

U.S.S. *Pueblo* (AGER-2) at the time of its capture by North Korea on January 23, 1968, and who passed away on January 28, 2004;

(2) praises Commander Bucher for his exemplary bravery and sacrifice, which were an inspiration to his crew and the United States, while he and his crew were held in captivity for 11 months in North Korea;

(3) praises the bravery of the crew of the U.S.S. *Pueblo*; and

(4) expresses its heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends of Commander Bucher.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. AKIN) and the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. AKIN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the concurrent resolution currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, some observers have argued that the United States won the Cold War without firing a shot. While we may have secured our victory without a large-scale military conflict with the former Soviet Union, there are many Americans whose lives were indelibly marked by this not-so-Cold War. One of those Americans was Commander Pete Bucher. I rise today to honor this American patriot and the men who served under his command on the USS *Pueblo*.

On January 23, 1968, the USS *Pueblo* was commanded by Pete Bucher and was monitoring Communist ship movements and intercepting messages in international waters near the North Korean coast when it was attacked by North Korean naval forces. As a result of the attack, one Navy sailor, Fireman Duane Hodges, was killed and the remaining crew members were captured. Their incarceration marked the beginning of a nearly yearlong ordeal for Commander Bucher and the crew of the USS *Pueblo*.

Held in concrete cells for 11 months, Commander Bucher and the *Pueblo* crew were starved and tortured by the North Koreans. Mostly fed turnips, many of the malnourished crew members began to lose their sight. They were repeatedly beaten and burned. According to Crewman Bob Chicca, the North Koreans would use "rifle butts or pieces of wood, whatever they had handy, to beat us."

By all accounts, Pete Bucher bore the brunt of the North Koreans' wrath. According to crewman Stu Russell, Bucher "was a giant." As commanding officer, Bucher was the focus of the North Korean efforts. Russell recalled that "he took the brunt of everything. No matter who did what, he was always punished. I simply don't know where he

got the strength and courage to go through what he did." Eventually Bucher, when he was wounded when the *Pueblo* was shelled, was beaten and tortured into signing a "confession," an act he also felt would save the lives of his crew.

During her husband's captivity, Rose Bucher, a native of my home State of Missouri, worked hard to make sure Americans did not forget the men of the *Pueblo*. Rose handed out bumper stickers reminding the public to "Remember the *Pueblo*." Finally, 2 days before Christmas 1968, Commander Bucher and the crew of the *Pueblo* were released one by one across the "Bridge of No Return" from North to South Korea. At the time Bucher stated, "It was like coming out of the grave."

On 28 January 2004, this courageous warrior passed from this world into the next. He was subsequently buried with honors at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery in Point Loma, San Diego, California. Three men who served under Pete Bucher on the *Pueblo* carried the flag-draped coffin to its final resting place overlooking San Diego Bay.

Today, I am pleased to be joined by 26 of my House colleagues, both Republican and Democrat, in offering this resolution to honor Commander Lloyd "Pete" Bucher and the crew of the USS *Pueblo*. Pete Bucher and his crew sacrificed that each of us may enjoy the liberty for which so many others have given the ultimate sacrifice. In passing this resolution, we continue to remember the *Pueblo*.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 407 introduced by my colleague, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. AKIN). I would like to recognize the gentleman for his leadership and work in bringing forward this resolution to salute the service and extreme bravery of Commander Lloyd Mark Bucher and the crew of the USS *Pueblo*.

Sadly, Lloyd Bucher, who went by the name of "Pete," passed away earlier this year. With his passing, the tragic event of the capture of the USS *Pueblo* in 1968 by North Korea once again brings light upon this exceptional individual. Commander Bucher did not just have the unfortunate privilege of being the commander of the USS *Pueblo* when it was attacked by the North Koreans on January 23, 1968. It was his bravery, loyalty and steadfastness to his men that distinguished him as an extraordinary leader during a dark and very challenging time.

Pete Bucher's life is an American story. He was born in 1927. His parents died when he was an infant. He was adopted, but tragically, his adoptive parents also died during his childhood.

After seeing the film "Boys Town," he wrote to Father Flanagan asking if he could live there. According to a Boys Town account, Father Flanagan

sent him a train ticket, and Pete Bucher finally found a permanent home in Omaha, Nebraska.

At 17 years of age, Pete Bucher enlisted in the Navy. He went on to college at the University of Nebraska, and after graduating he became a naval officer and served for 27 years before retiring in 1973.

He might have lived an ordinary naval life if not for the terrible events that unfolded on January 23, 1968. As commander of the USS *Pueblo*, an intelligence gathering ship, Commander Bucher was ordered to cruise off the eastern coast of North Korea to intercept communications and gather intelligence. While on their maiden voyage and in international waters, the *Pueblo* armed only with two .50 caliber machine guns was attacked by three North Korean torpedo boats and a North Korean sub chaser.

The attack ended with one American crewman killed and a number of crew wounded, including Commander Bucher.

□ 1415

Despite radio calls seeking air support, no help ever arrived. Instead, the crew and its captain were taken as prisoners. Beaten, tortured, and starved nearly to death, the crew endured this brutality for nearly a year. Pete Bucher, as the leader of the crew, took the brunt of these punishments.

According to James Kell, a *Pueblo* survivor, many more sailors would have died without Bucher's sense of bravery and leadership. He bore the worst of the tortures and inspired his men to hang on. It was his concern for saving the life of his crew that made him a sailor's sailor, a sign of respect and admiration from his crew. On December 23, 1968, 11 months after their capture, the crew and the captain of the USS *Pueblo* were released. Many were crippled or nearly blind because of malnourishment they endured.

Yet Commander Pete Bucher would not receive the support and recognition that he deserved from his commanding officers. Instead, he faced an official court of inquiry that criticized him for surrendering his ship and recommended a court-martial. But Bucher was never charged. He continued to serve in the Navy and retired in 1973.

Today, we remember the *Pueblo*, and we salute the life and the courage of this exceptional individual and recognize the bravery of all those who served with him aboard the USS *Pueblo*. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 407, of which I am an original co-sponsor, saluting the life and courage of the late Commander Lloyd "Pete" Bucher, United States Navy (retired) and the crew of the USS *Pueblo*.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say that two of the USS *Pueblo* crew members, First Class Petty Officer Donald R. Peppard and Seaman Ramon Rosales, hail from my Congressional district of El Paso, Texas. Both were among

the gallant men who served their country honorably in the face of much hardship. As you know, the members of the USS *Pueblo*, under the leadership of Commander Bucher, endured 11 months of excruciating captivity at the hands of the North Koreans without knowing if they would return to their loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, this is merely a small recognition paying tribute to the late Commander Bucher and the crew of the USS *Pueblo*, for this country owes much more to them than we could ever reciprocate. I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the brave men of the USS *Pueblo* by supporting the passage of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ADERHOLT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. AKIN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 407.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING GRAVE CONCERN OF CONGRESS REGARDING CONTINUING GROSS VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES OF SYRIAN PEOPLE BY GOVERNMENT OF SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 363) expressing the grave concern of Congress regarding the continuing gross violations of human rights and civil liberties of the Syrian people by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 363

Whereas the Syrian Arab Republic is governed by an authoritarian regime which continues to commit serious human rights abuses, including the use of torture and arbitrary arrest and detention;

Whereas the Department of State's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2003 states that Syria "significantly restricts freedom of speech and of the press", that "freedom of assembly does not exist under the law", and that "the Government restricted freedom of association";

Whereas Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states "Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers";

Whereas Article 20 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states "Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association";

Whereas Syria's September 2001 press law permits the government to arbitrarily deny or revoke publishing licenses for vague reasons and compels media to submit all material to government censors;

Whereas Syrian authorities have arrested, or, in the case of foreigners, expelled two journalists for writing critically about Syria's policies;

Whereas Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International have reported that the security forces of Syria are targeting emerging Syrian human rights organizations, as well as their attorneys, in an apparent attempt to intimidate those organizations;

Whereas on March 8, 2004, Syrian security forces arrested more than 30 human rights dissidents and civilians at a sit-in in front of the parliament;

Whereas a United States diplomat who was watching the peaceful demonstrations was also arrested and held for an hour in what the United States Government called an unacceptable violation of diplomatic practice and which the United States protested "in the strongest terms";

Whereas Article 7 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states "All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law.";

Whereas the criminal law of Syria provides for reduced sentences in cases of "honor" killings, and spousal rape is not illegal;

Whereas the infringement by Syria on human rights and civil liberties extends into the Lebanese Republic, which it continues to occupy in violation of United Nations Security Council resolutions;

Whereas Human Rights Watch, in its 2003 World Report, stated that "political activists in Lebanon continued to demand the withdrawal of all Syrian forces from the country and organized demonstrations throughout the year, many of which the internal security forces dispersed forcibly";

Whereas hundreds of Lebanese civilians are believed to have been killed or "disappeared" by Syrian occupation forces or its secret police;

Whereas hundreds of Kurdish civilians were injured or killed in clashes with the Syrian authorities that began on March 12, 2004, in Qamishli, a city in northeastern Syria and, according to Syrian Kurdish sources, security forces used live ammunition against unarmed civilians; and

Whereas human rights and democracy groups in Syria have sponsored a petition urging greater freedoms and the release of all political prisoners, which has garnered more than 6,000 signatures: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) condemns the consistent pattern of gross violations of internationally recognized human rights by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic;

(2) calls on the international community to adopt a resolution at the upcoming session of the United Nations General Assembly which details the dismal human rights record of Syria;

(3) expresses its support for the people of Syria in their daily struggle for freedom, respect for human rights and civil liberties, democratic self-governance, and the establishment of the rule of law;

(4) encourages the President and the Secretary of State to reach out to dissidents, human rights activists, and the nonviolent democratic opposition in Syria, and to assist them in their efforts; and

(5) urges the adoption and pursuit of these and other policies to seek a democratic government in Syria that will—

(A) bring freedom and democracy to the people of Syria;

(B) cease the illegal occupation by Syria of the Lebanese Republic;

(C) abandon support for terrorism by Syria;

(D) not pursue research, development, acquisition, production, transfer, or deployment of biological, chemical, or nuclear weapons, will provide credible assurances that such behavior will not be undertaken in the future, and will agree to allow United Nations and other international observers to verify such assurances; and

(E) live in peace and security with the international community.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 363, the concurrent resolution now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I want to thank the leadership and the chairman and the ranking member of the Committee on International Relations, the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), for bringing House Concurrent Resolution 363 to the floor today. This important resolution expresses the grave concern of Congress regarding the continuing gross violations of human rights and civil liberties by the Syrian dictatorship.

The Syrian regime is one that not only supports and facilitates terrorist attacks against innocent civilians throughout the world, but also engages in a widespread campaign of terror against its own people. Throughout this year, Syria's tyrannical regime has intensified its crackdown against Syrian Kurds and pro-democracy forces inside the country. The arrest and the detention in the last few months of Syrian peaceful demonstrators clamoring for the right to exercise their fundamental liberties is but the latest example of the brutal regime of the dictatorship in Damascus.

International human rights organizations, such as Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, and others, have reported that the security forces of Syria are targeting emerging Syrian human rights organizations, as well as their attorneys, in an apparent attempt to intimidate those organizations into submission and silence.

Unfortunately, the gross violations of human rights are not limited to Syria's immediate borders. The repressive apparatus also extends into neighboring Lebanon, which Syria continues to occupy, making Lebanon a captive nation.

This fact was recently acknowledged by the international community through the adoption of United Nations

Security Council Resolution 1559, calling on all foreign troops to withdraw without delay from Lebanon and to stop meddling in the country's November elections. Hundreds of Lebanese civilians are believed to have been killed or disappeared by Syrian occupation forces or its secret police.

House Concurrent Resolution 363 details and condemns the persistent repression of our Syrian and Lebanese brothers and sisters at the hands of the terrorist regime in Syria. It articulates our support for Syria's human rights and pro-democracy activists and calls on free and democratic nations to take a unified stance and condemn the deplorable and heinous human rights record of the Syrian dictatorship. It expresses congressional support for the people of Syria in their daily struggle for freedom, for respect for human rights and civil liberties, for democratic self-governance, and for the establishment of the rule of law.

House Concurrent Resolution 363 further encourages the President and the Secretary of State to reach out to dissidents and to the nonviolent democratic opposition in Syria. It calls for the United States to assist them in their efforts to help bring freedom to Syria so that they can achieve the ultimate goal of a democratic form of government in Syria that is truly responsive to the needs of its people and has permanently abandoned any support for terrorism and the development of deadly unconventional weapons.

The people of Syria and the dissidents, such as the chairman of the Committees For the Defense of Democratic Liberties and Human Rights in Syria, need our support. Upon being temporarily released from jail last month, this human rights activist said: "I will persist. I will never retreat. And I will continue to exert more pressure for democratic initiatives."

My colleagues, we cannot stand idly by and allow the Syrian regime to continue these deplorable practices. We too must maintain the pressure on this pariah state. And so, accordingly, I ask my colleagues to support this important resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I stand in strong support of this resolution.

This important resolution supports the people of Syria, who live under a violent, repressive regime. And I am delighted to commend my good friend and distinguished colleague, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN), for bringing this resolution before the Congress.

It was just 3 weeks ago, Mr. Speaker, that I was in Damascus, Syria, for a series of discussions and meetings with the government of Syria, specifically the foreign minister, our ambassador, and a number of people in Syrian academic and media life.

Last fall, the Syrian Accountability Act was approved overwhelmingly on a

vote of 398 to 4. That bill addressed Syria's behavior in the Middle East, including its sponsorship of terrorist groups and its continuing occupation of Lebanon and its willingness to allow terrorist groups to filter into Iraq. Since the passage of that act, Syria has continued to make only token efforts to prevent the infiltration of foreign terrorists into Iraq. It continues to host terrorist headquarters in Damascus, it maintains 17,000 Syrian troops in Lebanon, it supports the terrorist organization Hezbollah, it transfers Iranian arms to Hezbollah, and it continues its vicious anti-American propaganda on all government-controlled media.

When I met with President Assad in Damascus last year, I urged him to change his government's behavior, both at home and abroad, so that Syria at long last could rejoin the ranks of the civilized world. I repeated that message to Foreign Minister Shaara in a press conference last month in Damascus. Perhaps not surprisingly, while my press conference received considerable attention from the media throughout the region, the Syrian press was prohibited from covering the event. In fact, the Syrians let it be known before my trip that they would be displeased if I were even to hold a press conference. I nevertheless, of course, did so, fully aware that I was delivering a message with which most Syrians agreed but none could utter in public without the severest consequences.

The resolution before us is one result of Syria's failure to heed the advice that I and many others, including our Secretary of State Colin Powell, have given. Another result was an all-too-rare slap from the international community in the form of U.N. Security Council Resolution 1559, passed earlier this month and long overdue, which calls for an end to Syrian interference in and control of Lebanese affairs, the withdrawal of Syrian forces from Lebanon, the disbanding of all militias in Lebanon, including Syria's Hezbollah terrorist movement.

The resolution before us today focuses on Syria's brutal suppression of dissent and human rights at home within Syria, for which Damascus must be held accountable. After all, nobody has suffered more from the brutality of the Syrian government than the Syrian people themselves.

Syria continues to commit egregious human rights abuses, including torture, arbitrary detentions of political prisoners without trial, imprisonment of parliamentarians who dare to deviate from the Baath party line, censorship and harassment of journalists, and the lightest of sentences for so-called honor killings.

According to Amnesty International, Syria is engaged in a campaign to harass and intimidate human rights organizations until their members leave the country. We cannot credibly say we favor political reform in the Middle

East if we ignore Syria's crimes against its own citizens.

In 2003, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights classified Syria as one of the world's most repressive regimes. It is very important that Congress be on record not merely to criticize the Syrian government for its actions abroad but, just as importantly, to express our support for the Syrian people in their struggle to achieve the kind of government they should have.

Mr. Speaker, a Syria that is accountable to world standards and norms, a Syria that respects its own citizens and no longer occupies Lebanon or hosts and supports terrorists must be a central goal of our essential project of reforming the Middle East.

□ 1430

In the long run, a Middle East in which people are stakeholders in public life offers the greatest hope for peace and safety in the region and beyond. I urge all of my colleagues to support this carefully crafted resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE).

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this important resolution, and I thank both of my colleagues, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), for introducing this important resolution.

Despite recent sanctions put on Syria pursuant to the Syria Accountability Act by our government and warnings that the sanctions will continue until Syria ends their support for terrorism, Syria continues to play host to terrorist groups like Hamas and Hezbollah. We know Hamas took responsibility for the suicide bombings in Israel a couple of weeks ago, and yet Syria continues to harbor Hamas leaders. Despite claims that Syria is not an occupying force in Lebanon, recent reports indicate that Syria forced the Lebanese government to keep their hand-picked president in office for another term, basically violating the Constitution of Lebanon. So the fact of the matter is that Syria continues to interfere in Lebanese affairs and is, in fact, an occupying force.

Syria has committed a laundry list of human rights abuses not only in Lebanon but also against its own people. It has imprisoned hundreds of political prisoners without charges, including two journalists from Lebanon who wrote editorials against Syria's occupation.

Mr. Speaker, I have spoken on several occasions regarding Syria's systematic oppression of the Syrian Jewish community. Those Jews who remain in Syria, and there are very few, they nonetheless face constant terror and intimidation from Syria's secret police, nightly curfews and have been forced to carry special identification cards.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join with me in supporting this resolu-

tion. Syria has proven to be a destabilizing force in the Middle East, and it is critical that we urge the international community to take a stand on Syria's abysmal human rights record.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a long-time supporter of human rights in the Middle East and throughout the world. Clearly, I am in support of human rights in Syria. Every human being deserves to be treated with respect and without the fear of persecution and death. I stand firmly against the use of torture, arbitrary arrest and detention. I cannot deny that Syria has a long way to go to meet the human rights standards that we have established. However, I do not believe complete condemnation of the nation of Syria will yield the results we seek. We must continue to push for freedom of the press and greater freedom for women, but I feel that we must engage Syria in a dialogue instead of turning a cold shoulder to them.

I also feel that it is worth reviewing the relationship between Syria and Lebanon. I do not believe we should condemn Syria for their relationship with Lebanon, but we must engage in an examination to determine if the relationship between Syria and Lebanon can be improved. We must seek to build relationships in the Middle East as opposed to tearing them down. Our goal is to establish greater stability and a more free society in the Middle East; to accomplish these lofty goals we must press forward with new initiatives as opposed to complete condemnations.

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I support and applaud the authors of H. Con. Res. 363 for urging Syria to live in peace and security with the international community and for condemning Syrian human rights violations. The U.S. Congress is an appropriate venue for highlighting human rights abuses and forum for urging other nations to abide by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Every year Congress passes dozens of resolutions condemning human rights violations throughout the world. Unfortunately, while there are a plethora of countries that demand censure, the House of Representatives tends to focus more frequently on a few specific countries like the People's Republic of China, Iran and Syria; all countries that we must prod to do better. Many of the statements regarding human rights violations in H. Con. Res. 363 apply to numerous other countries in the world.

If we condemn one country and turn a blind eye to the very same abuses in another country, the magnitude and moral legitimacy of our censure is greatly diminished. For example, H. Con. Res. 363 condemns: "The family law of Syria as applied to Muslim women is governed by Sharia law and is discriminatory in marriage, divorce, and inheritance matters." But Sharia family law is also practiced in numerous other Arab countries, including Saudi Arabia.

Syria needs to understand that by passage of H. Con. Res. 363, the United States Congress expects Syria to improve its human rights record and adhere to the rule of law. Approval of H. Con. Res. 363 should also signal to other countries that the United States will continue to express its disapproval of violators of basic human rights and disregard of the dignities of its citizens.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ADERHOLT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 363, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR FREEDOM IN HONG KONG

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 667) expressing support for freedom in Hong Kong.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 667

Whereas according to the April 1, 2004, report by the Department of State entitled U.S.-Hong Kong Policy Act Report, "The United States has strong interests in the protection of human rights and the promotion of democratic institutions throughout the world. The Hong Kong people share many values and interests with Americans and have worked to make Hong Kong a model of what can be achieved in a society based on the rule of law and respect for civil liberties";

Whereas according to section 103(3) of the United States-Hong Kong Policy Act of 1992 (22 U.S.C. 5713(3)), "The United States should continue to treat Hong Kong as a territory which is fully autonomous from the United Kingdom and, after June 30, 1997, should treat Hong Kong as a territory which is fully autonomous from the People's Republic of China with respect to economic and trade matters";

Whereas the People's Republic of China has frustrated the gradual and orderly process toward universal suffrage and the democratic election of the legislature and chief executive in Hong Kong as envisioned by the Basic Law of the Hong Kong SAR; and

Whereas on April 6, 2004, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China declared itself, as opposed to the people of Hong Kong, the final arbiter of democratic reform and, on April 26, 2004, declared that universal suffrage would not apply to the election of the third Chief Executive in 2007 or to the election of all members of the fourth Legislative Council in 2008: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) declares that the people of Hong Kong should be free to determine the pace and scope of constitutional developments; and

(2) calls upon the President of the United States to—

(A) call upon the People's Republic of China, the National People's Congress, and any groups appointed by the Government of the People's Republic of China to guarantee that all revisions of Hong Kong law reflect

the wishes of the people of Hong Kong as expressed through a fully democratically elected legislature and chief executive;

(B) declare that the continued lack of a fully democratically elected legislature in Hong Kong is contrary to the vision of democracy set forth in the Agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the People's Republic of China on the Question of Hong Kong, done at Beijing on December 19, 1984 (the Sino-British Joint Declaration of 1984); and

(C) call upon the Government of the People's Republic of China to honor its treaty obligations under the Sino-British Joint Declaration of 1984.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in strong support of House Resolution 667 expressing support for freedom in Hong Kong. This resolution comes to the floor at an important time. Yesterday, the people of Hong Kong went to the polls to elect the members of their Legislative Council, and for the first time in Hong Kong's history, half of the seats in the Legislative Council were directly elected through universal suffrage.

Unfortunately, the remaining seats are still distributed among a cadre of narrow constituencies that receive disproportionate power over Hong Kong's governance. The people of Hong Kong, along with all other human beings, deserve universal suffrage and full, complete democracy. There is no city in the world that is better equipped to make the transition to self-governance.

Renowned for its open economy, transparency, and excellent rule of law, Hong Kong is widely regarded as the freest economy in the world. Hong Kong is also celebrated for its tradition of respect for civil liberties, including freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, and freedom of religion.

However, despite a rich tradition of democratic values, the people of Hong Kong still lack the most basic of freedoms, the freedom to elect their own government. This year's massive pro-democracy march on July 1 attracted half a million of Hong Kong's residents. It was powerful evidence that the people of Hong Kong are interested in far more than just economic prosperity. The record voter turnout in yester-

day's legislative elections was further proof that the people of Hong Kong want to participate in the political process.

The people of Hong Kong have already been promised universal suffrage in their mini-constitution, known as the "Basic Law," but the document fails to outline a timetable for full democracy.

Last April, Hong Kong's legislature was robbed of its tremendous opportunity to implement complete democracy when the People's Republic of China abused its authority to reinterpret Hong Kong's "Basic Law." The National People's Congress in Beijing made the decision that Hong Kong could not have universal suffrage in the election of the chief executive in 2007 and in the election of the legislature in the year 2008. This outrageous decision unacceptably interfered in Hong Kong's internal affairs, it halted the city's orderly progress toward universal suffrage and crushed the democratic aspirations of the people of Hong Kong. Beijing proved yet again that it cannot be trusted to keep its commitments.

Last summer, the Chinese Communist Party tried to exert more authority over Hong Kong by pushing through anti-secession legislation that could be used to target groups such as the Falun Gong. Thankfully, a people's power movement in Hong Kong stopped this legislation from going forward.

Last winter, the Chinese news media launched vicious attacks against pro-democracy legislators in Hong Kong, using vitriolic rhetoric that harkened back to the days of China's cultural revolution. In the spring, freedom of the press in Hong Kong was compromised when three prominent radio talk show hosts resigned from their talk shows due to intimidation and threats relating to their participation in the democracy movement.

Over the past year, there have been numerous reports of vandalism against pro-democracy legislators. Even yesterday's election was marred by accounts of voter intimidation, as is documented in a recent report published by Human Rights Watch. Such tactics show that the Chinese Communist Party continues to distort the truth, relies on intimidation to control the people, and rules by coercion. While Beijing may not have directly precipitated all of these events, they have certainly fomented the sentiment behind them.

It is my hope that the people of Hong Kong will soon realize their hope for democracy. We congratulate them on the completion of yesterday's election and call on the PRC to respect the "one country, two systems" model and allow the people of Hong Kong to come up with a timetable for democratic reform.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that my colleagues will join me in supporting the people of Hong Kong as they work to realize their hope of real democracy.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this important resolution and urge all of my colleagues to do so as well, and I would first like to commend the gentleman from California (Mr. Cox) for introducing this important and timely resolution. The gentleman from California (Mr. Cox) is a fighter for human rights and democracy in Asia and throughout the world, and I am delighted to support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, when Hong Kong reverted to Chinese control in 1997, some of us who cared deeply about the future of Hong Kong went to witness that event. We feared that the Chinese government would not be true to its word that the people of Hong Kong would be able to maintain their free and open way of life and that they would be free of interference from the Mainland government. My worst fears about China's intentions have now materialized.

On the surface, much about Hong Kong remains the same. The people of Hong Kong continue to play a role in the running of their economy. Just this past weekend, elections were held for half of the seats of the Legislative Council. Opposition is strong and growing in the Hong Kong legislature, and the local press often criticizes those who govern Hong Kong. But, Mr. Speaker, there are very troubling signs that the Chinese government has lost its patience with Hong Kong's independent way of life and is moving steadily to bring the people of Hong Kong under the firm grip of Beijing.

Last year, hundreds of thousands of Hong Kong citizens turned out on the streets after the Hong Kong government at the Mainland's demand attempted to erode civil liberties in the name of protecting national security. Three prominent members of the press who often criticize the Chinese government recently resigned their positions after threats were made to the safety of their families.

And, Mr. Speaker, the Chinese government recently declared that universal suffrage would not apply to the election of the chief executive in 2007 or to the election of members of the Legislative Council in 2008. Despite the solemn promise of the Sino-British Joint Declaration that democratic reform would continue in Hong Kong towards universal suffrage, the Chinese government has clearly had enough of Hong Kong's independent voices.

The Chinese leadership fights full democracy in Hong Kong for a very simple reason: they fully understand that Hong Kong would thrive and prosper under a fully democratic government. Such democratic success would make it impossible to tell the rapidly growing middle class in Shanghai, Beijing, and other cities throughout China that the Chinese people are not ready for open and free elections and that chaos would ensue should such elections occur.

Yesterday's election results from Hong Kong demonstrate clearly the need for fundamentally changing Hong Kong's electoral system. Even though Hong Kong democrats made gains in the elections, they can never win a majority in the Legislative Council because half the seats are chosen by pro-Beijing committees, not the people of Hong Kong. This situation is unacceptable.

Our resolution makes clear that the United States is deeply dissatisfied with these negative trends in Hong Kong, particularly the Chinese government's refusal to ensure that all elected officials in Hong Kong are elected by popular vote. It also calls upon the Chinese government to honor its treaty obligations under the Sino-British Joint Declaration.

□ 1445

Mr. Speaker, it remains my modest hope that the Chinese government will recognize the error of its current approach to Hong Kong and give the people of Hong Kong the full democracy they so richly deserve. I support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. Cox), the principal sponsor and the author of this resolution.

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Florida for yielding me this time. I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) for his kind words but mostly for his strong efforts in behalf of not only democracy in Hong Kong but around the world. I rise in support of H. Res. 667, which expresses the sense of this House in support of freedom and democracy and self-determination for the people of Hong Kong.

Nearly 2 million of Hong Kong's 7 million people voted yesterday and pro-democracy advocates won 25 out of the 30 seats that they were eligible to compete for. But the other half of the 60 seats in the LegCo were not elected through universal suffrage because those seats were decided by so-called functional constituencies, effectively controlled by Beijing. Many observers have compared the functional constituencies to Britain's "rotten boroughs," where a handful of malleable voters held all the power.

Genuine democracy should be allowed under Beijing's oft repeated slogan of "one country, two systems." It ought to be allowed because it is what the people of Hong Kong want. But at present neither Hong Kong's chief executive nor most of its lawmakers are democratically elected. Hong Kong Chief Executive Tung Chee Hwa, shortly after taking power in 1997, assured this Congressman and the United States Congress that, quote, further democratic evolution will depend on the wish of the Hong Kong people. Seven years later, the People's Repub-

lic of China has not made good on that promise.

We have been here before.

Last year, the House passed H. Res. 277, responding to a direct threat against freedom in Hong Kong, a Communist-backed law designed to restrict free speech and civil liberties in the guise of punishing subversion. Just days later, more than a half million people in Hong Kong demonstrated against the proposed law. In combination with American and international outrage, this courageous demonstration of people power resulted in a tactical victory for freedom. The law so far remains shelved.

But this year Beijing has returned with a new tactic. Since it is easier simply to prevent democratic elections than it is to completely crush free speech, the Communist regime simply ruled out any possibility of democratic elections for chief executive in 2007 and for the legislature in 2008. They did this on April 6 of this year without even consulting the people of Hong Kong as is required by the basic law. This new interpretation of the basic law bars the legislature of Hong Kong from any actions towards electoral reform until Beijing has granted its blessings. Beijing then sought to ensure that what little democracy the people of Hong Kong were allowed to exercise would be severely manipulated.

These intentions became clear on May 5 of this year. On that day, just a few months ago, the People's Republic of China sailed eight PLA warships down Victoria Harbor in Hong Kong. This overt show of military force, which was the first time that this has happened since the handover in 1997, included four frigates, two submarines, two destroyers, and all the sailors standing at attention atop their vessels. The display left little doubt as to how seriously the Communist regime viewed the question of fully democratic elections and their intention not to have them.

At the same time, the People's Republic of China began a campaign of harassment and intimidation against Hong Kong's pro-democracy activists. As my colleague from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) has described, in early May of this year Albert Cheung, a well-known radio host and columnist, was forced to flee Hong Kong after receiving threats against his life from PRC officials. Mr. Cheung left behind an audio recording. It detailed threats of violence made against him and his family. Shortly thereafter, his replacement on the show, Allen Lee, was also forced to quit broadcasting, citing the need to protect his family. He received a late-night threat by telephone from a PRC official who referred pointedly to his wife and his daughter. Media outlets in Hong Kong have been silenced through commercial pressure for supporting or even just reporting on democratic views. Chinese property developers, for instance, boycotted advertising in the Chinese language Apple

Daily newspaper for daring to report on the July 1 pro-democracy demonstrations. This industry has always been the largest ad buyer for the paper. Pro-democracy legislative candidate Alex Ho was detained under suspicious circumstances on a business trip to the mainland in early August. He was accused of consorting with a prostitute and sentenced to 6 months without a trial. According to Asian media outlets, Hong Kong media moguls who steered their outlets towards Beijing's wishes in the run-up to yesterday's elections have been rewarded with political titles and easier mainland China market access.

In mid May, numerous Hong Kong voters called in to local radio shows to report that they were pressured to vote for Beijing's preferred candidates. Several callers reported being contacted by relatives on the mainland and told that if they did not vote for pro-Beijing candidates, their relatives on the mainland would face severe consequences. Human Rights Watch has recounted in a 42-page report on September 9 that one caller reported, quote, a senior staff member of my company asked me to vote for pro-Beijing candidates instead of pro-democracy candidates. To make sure I have done that, he told me to take pictures of my completed ballot with my mobile phone camera.

As the PRC learned to counter potential freedom through the Internet, so has it learned to twist the freedom of wireless communication into just another tool of oppression. On May 19, the office of legislator Leung Yiu-chung was defaced with excrement. This vandalism closely followed Leung's support in the legislature for a pro-democracy resolution. In June, vandals set fire to election posters in the office of pro-democracy legislator Emily Lau and wrote, quote, Chinese traitors must die on the wall outside.

In July, Hong Kong's Independent Commission Against Corruption, an anticorruption body admired worldwide, became just another blunt instrument of Communist rule, raiding the offices of local newspapers, including the South China Morning Post, Apple Daily, Oriental Daily News, the Sun, and Sing Tao. Even the ostensibly pro-Communist Ta Kung Pao newspaper was not spared. Some investigators remained on the scene for up to 10 hours. Journalists' homes were searched and many were not so cordially invited for further questioning. Since the commission is answerable to Hong Kong's unelected chief executive, C.H. Tung, it is unlikely that orders came anywhere but from the top.

All these examples constitute a strange melding of criminal elements. The director of the Hong Kong Human Rights Monitor, Law Yuk-kai, has said, quote, we believe the Ministry of State Security and Hong Kong triads are collaborating in this political violence and intimidation. Yet this campaign of intimidation and harassment had a goal more important than simply win-

ning yesterday's elections. It was about the PRC making Hong Kong voters understand that supporting democratic forces carries a heavy price. Despite the very real threats from the Communist regime, the people of Hong Kong still went to the polls in record numbers and they returned a near totality of the democratically elected seats in the LegCo. The people of Hong Kong have shown that they will not be intimidated or silenced.

Stephen Vines wrote in the Hong Kong Standard on August 4, 2004, "Those of us who work in the media have been accused of crying wolf far too often, but maybe we have not cried wolf often enough." According to Vines, the way to prevent such erosions of freedom is not to wait for dramatic events like editors being murdered in Russia or newspapers being forcibly closed in mainland China. "If we need to wait for the worst before speaking out," he said, "we will have waited too long."

More than 400 academics declared in an advertisement in the Apple Daily newspaper on May 27 that, quote, in the face of autocratic and political pressure, we will not be silent. The people of Hong Kong know that they must defend their democracy and their way of life against Communist oppression. Now it is up to us to remind them that the American people stand with them.

This House demands that Beijing guarantee all revisions of Hong Kong law reflect the wishes of the people of Hong Kong as expressed through a fully democratically elected legislature and chief executive. A high degree of autonomy is what was promised to the people of Hong Kong in the 1984 Sino-British Joint Declaration. Hong Kong's Basic Law stipulates that Beijing has authority over defense and foreign affairs but that Hong Kong itself should have autonomy for most domestic affairs, driven by an independent electoral democracy. Beijing's attempts this year, as in the past, constitute a blatant violation of the rights of the people of Hong Kong, of the Basic Law and of the People's Republic of China's treaty obligations.

An act of this Congress, the U.S.-Hong Kong Policy Act, directly ties our commercial interests in Hong Kong to the freedom of Hong Kong's people. The President of the United States has the authority under the act to suspend many of the special treatments we extend to the territory in areas including export controls, customs, air service and cultural and educational exchange because Beijing's ham-fisted violation of the Hong Kong autonomy violates that act. The Communists were caught off guard by the massive popular demonstrations in July, both this year and last. For ages, Beijing has maintained the belief that any complaints about autonomy and democracy were really veiled economic frustrations, that the people of Hong Kong could be satisfied with some economic sweeteners. Now perhaps the Communist regime may

begin to understand. Business interests can be purchased and bureaucratic machinery can be controlled, but the hearts and minds of the people of Hong Kong are not for sale.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday's elections were part of a broader fight for the soul of Hong Kong and ultimately the future of China. We believe that Communist China must follow Hong Kong's example of freedom, not the other way around. Hong Kong's 7 million people remain the best hope for freedom and democracy for billions of other people in China and throughout Asia.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 667. H. Res. 667 comes to us today after an unprecedented turnout in Hong Kong's election, which were held on Sunday, September 12, 2004. Democracy-oriented candidates benefited from a record voter turnout in an election viewed widely as a symbolic clash between the differing value systems of communist China and Hong Kong. This turnout is an important next step for the citizens of Hong Kong and their ability to choose their leaders in future elections. H. Res. 667 seeks to continue toward the path of a democratic elected legislature and calls upon the People's Republic of China to honor their obligations to Hong Kong. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and support the people of Hong Kong in their quest toward freedom from the captivity of the People's Republic of China.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the gentleman from California (Mr. COX) for his resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I also have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ADERHOLT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 667.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

CONDEMNING TERRORIST ATTACKS AGAINST RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 760) condemning the series of terrorist attacks against the Russian Federation that occurred in late August and early September 2004.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 760

Whereas on August 24, 2004, 2 Russian passenger airliners, Sibir Airlines Flight 1047

and Volga-Avia Express Flight 1303, exploded nearly simultaneously from bombs believed to have been carried aboard by passengers, killing 90 people;

Whereas on August 31, 2004, a suicide bomber attacked the Rizhskaya subway station in Moscow, killing 10 people and injuring 51;

Whereas on September 1, 2004, a group of approximately 30 terrorists seized Middle School No. 1 in Beslan, Russia, on the first day of school;

Whereas more than 1,180 parents, teachers, and children were held hostage for 52 hours with no food or water;

Whereas this act of terrorism resulted in more than 335 dead, including 156 children, hundreds wounded and 190 still unaccounted for;

Whereas terrorist actions during the standoff were grotesque and cruel;

Whereas this attack parallels tactics used by terrorist groups around the world, including extensive preparations, the simultaneity of attacks requiring coordination, and the use of suicide bombers;

Whereas the terrorists possessed sophisticated weapons and training, including camouflage, gas masks, trained dogs, specialized sniper cartridges, and grenade launchers;

Whereas the attacks were reportedly planned by Shamil Basayev, a Chechen rebel commander, and financed by Abu Omar as-Seyf, a radical Islamic Wahabite, believed to be associated with al-Qaeda;

Whereas these 3 attacks represent an unparalleled level of barbarity against the Russian Federation;

Whereas the United States has provided medical supplies, medicine, and other equipment to help doctors cope with the injured in these attacks;

Whereas terrorism in the 21st century flows across national borders; and

Whereas the school children and people of Beslan, Russia have now joined the people of New York City, Moscow, Karachi, Jerusalem, Madrid, Bali, and many other places around the globe as victims of international terrorism: Now, therefore, be it—

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) deplores the series of terrorist attacks against the Russian Federation that occurred in late August and early September 2004;

(2) expresses its heartfelt condolences to the families of the individuals murdered in the terrorist attacks, expresses its sympathies to the individuals injured in the attacks, and conveys its hope for the rapid and complete recovery of all such injured individuals; and

(3) stands in solidarity with the Russian people in efforts to combat terrorism throughout the world.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on this resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution. I would like to begin by thanking the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) for their support of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, in recent weeks, the Russian people have suffered greatly from terrorism.

□ 1500

They have seen two airplanes blown out of the sky, killing all on board. They have seen bombs explode in subway tunnels, killing people who were just going home or just going to work. And then they saw the tragedy in a town called Beslan, in southern Russia.

And in Russia the first day of school is known there as “the day of knowledge.” For Middle School No. 1 in Beslan, it turned into a day of terror. As students and teachers and parents gathered for that first day, 30 terrorists stormed the school, and they took 1,180 occupants as hostage. They herded the group of children and teachers and parents into the school gymnasium, and they rigged it with explosives. And those who did not obey orders on the spot were executed on that site. And there they sat the hostages in the sweltering gymnasium for 52 hours with no food, with no water. Hostages stripped off their clothes from relief of the heat and did what they could to save themselves and try to stay hydrated.

These attacks were planned in meticulous detail with a cache of weapons and other equipment hidden underneath the school’s library wooden floor for weeks before the attack. The terrorists were well trained. They were very well equipped. They possessed gas masks and hand-held radios and specialized weaponry. They even possessed two sentry dogs as expertly trained as the attackers themselves. This attack reflects the tactics used by Islamist terrorist groups around the world, including extensive preparation, simultaneous attacks requiring coordination, and the use of suicide bombers in the attack itself. It was no amateur operation.

The end of the seizure resulted in more than 330 dead, half of them children. Hundreds were wounded, and still more were unaccounted for after the bomb blasts. Children were shot in the back as they tried to escape.

The bombed-out school leaves an unimaginable scene, desks littered with bullet holes, bloody handprints on tiles, body parts of suicide bombers litter the floor and the ceiling of the classroom, and on the chalkboard one can see in the film that the teacher had prepared an arithmetic lesson four plus two equals six.

In Beslan last week, caskets, many of them child-sized, were carried one by one for burial. A patch of land about the size of a football field had to be prepared for more graves because the town’s cemetery was not big enough to hold all the bodies.

Mr. Speaker, September 1 is Russia’s 9/11. The world has expressed its sym-

pathy for the people of Beslan. At the Russian Embassy here in Washington, D.C., hundreds have lined up to sign condolence books, including Secretary Powell and President Bush. Secretary Powell wrote: “As a parent, my heart and my prayers go out to those who lost children. The United States stands firmly and with solidarity with Russia in fighting all forms of terrorism. This tragedy will serve to energize our efforts.”

As Americans are now sending their children back to school across the country, this calamity has moved many Americans. Many have commented on the Russian government’s response to this war and to its policies in Chechnya and its anti-democratic actions in Chechnya. This deserves debate in appropriate forums. However, one thing is clear: nothing can justify this deliberate targeting of innocent children. The use of children as targets by these trained terrorists is reprehensible. These are children, again, that were specifically targeted. This resolution rightly condemns this establishment.

Mr. Speaker, the unfortunate reality is that today’s terrorism knows no borders. This killing has spread and apparently will continue to spread. The children and people of Beslan, Russia, have now joined the people of New York and Bali and Moscow and Karachi and Jerusalem and Madrid and many other places around the globe as victims of international terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution. First I want to express my appreciation to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE), my good friend, for introducing this most important resolution and to the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman HYDE) for facilitating its expeditious consideration on the floor.

Mr. Speaker, September 1 is usually a very happy day for Russian families. It is the traditional first day of the school year, when parents accompany their children to school. And at School No. 1 in the town of Beslan in southern Russia, September 1, 2004, began in a joyous and celebratory manner. Children were dressed in their best clothes, busily catching up with their young friends and with their teachers after the summer break. Festive music played for this important and happy occasion in the lives of these carefree children and their parents.

Suddenly dozens of masked, armed terrorists stormed the school, causing mass chaos and fright, and forcing hundreds of students and parents into the gymnasium of the school. It sickens all of us to read the eyewitness accounts of the school seizure or to watch the video which was shot by the terrorists documenting their bloody and barbaric actions.

Mr. Speaker, there is no need to re-live today the violent and despicable

acts which followed. The entire world has seen them on television in all too graphic detail. But we now know that for the town of Beslan, and indeed for all of Russia, September 1, 2004, will hereafter be remembered as a day of horrible tragedy and unspeakable crime.

September 1, 2004, Mr. Speaker, will be remembered in Russia as we in the United States remember September 11, the day when we recognized our vulnerability to the brutality of Islamic terrorism and committed ourselves to a global battle against those who perpetrate these dastardly acts.

The Beslan attack was not Russia's first encounter with Islamic terrorists. Just days before, these same people brought down two commercial airliners in Russia, killing nearly a hundred civilians; and the suicide bombers struck in Moscow at a subway station, causing grief and suffering to families across Russia. Our hearts go out to the families of those who died or were injured in these tragic disasters.

Confronting, resisting, and defeating Islamic terrorism must be a global effort. The most meaningful contribution that we in Congress can make is to continue our commitment to carry on this battle until final victory. Today, as we remember the innocent victims of Beslan, the passengers of Sibir Airlines Flight 1047 and Volga-Avia Express 1303 and commuters and bystanders at the Rizhskaya subway station in Moscow, I want to offer the most heartfelt condolences of the American people to the Russian people and especially to the relatives and friends of the victims of Islamic terrorism.

I strongly support this resolution, and I urge all of my colleagues to do so as well.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), the vice chairman of the Committee on International Relations.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, first of all, let me thank and commend the gentleman from California (Chairman ROYCE) for his authorship of this very important and necessary resolution, and I am very pleased to join as a co-sponsor of H. Res. 760; and I join in the chorus of the Americans who stand in solidarity with the Russian people in their grief for those who have been murdered by terrorist actions. No words can adequately express the shock and sorrow that we feel at the events in Beslan. Our hearts go out to the people of Beslan as they bury their children and their neighbors. They have our deepest sympathy, and they have our prayers. Our hearts go out to the wounded and disabled, especially the young, who will bear the scars of terrorism for the rest of their lives.

This resolution properly deplores the terrorist attacks against Russia and expresses condolences to the families

of the victims. Their grief is our grief. Their anger is our anger. Their loss is our loss.

Mr. Speaker, there is ample reason to criticize Russia's military operations in Chechnya. I continue to believe that Moscow's strategy in that tortured region has been brutal, ill-advised, and self-defeating. As chairman of the Helsinki Commission, I have met numerous times with Russian leaders to protest their policy in Chechnya and have held a number of hearings, including with people like Elena Bonner, to protest what is going on there.

But let me make it very clear that there is no justification, no justification whatsoever, for the bloody violence that was perpetrated by cowardly terrorists who use innocent children to achieve political ends. If the terrorists thought they were helping the people of Chechnya by killing innocent people in North Ossetia, they were tragically in error. The people of Chechnya seek a respite from war. They and many in Russia want a just peace, not more carnage. Slaughtering children and traumatizing many more betrays the cause of peace.

Mr. Speaker, I trust this resolution reflects not only the sentiments of this House but also of millions of Americans that we represent. We mourn the tragic loss, the wanton loss of innocent lives.

And again I want to commend my colleagues, especially the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE); the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman HYDE); and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), ranking member, for their leadership on this important resolution.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON), who will soon travel to Beslan, Russia.

(Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague and friend for yielding me this time and for his leadership on this issue. I thank the gentleman from California for his leadership.

I rise as a co-author and co-sponsor of this important resolution to send a clear, unequivocal statement to the people and leaders of Russia that we are with them, that we are one in their fight against terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, later on this week I will make my 38th or 39th trip to Moscow. This will be the most solemn trip that I will have made in my career as I extend the sympathy and the concern and the personal feelings of all of our colleagues on both sides of the aisle to our friends in Russia.

Mr. Speaker, it is outrageous that we have witnessed the kinds of actions not just in the school in Beslan but as has been described here today, the terrorist attacks on airlines, the terrorist attacks in hotels where many of us have stayed. In fact, many of us have stayed

at the National Hotel in downtown Moscow right across from the Duma headquarters.

□ 1515

That was bombed earlier this year.

The people of Russia have suffered much. Now is not the time for us to criticize, although all of us have differences of opinion with the Russian leadership on various aspects of our bilateral relations. Now is the time to come together unequivocally standing one-on-one with the Russian people as they did with us on September 11.

I would remind our colleagues, Mr. Speaker, that it was Vladimir Putin who was the first foreign leader to telephone President Bush after 9/11. It was not the leader of Great Britain or Canada or Australia; it was President Putin, who expressed his solidarity with the people of America during our darkest hour.

There were scores of Russian Duma deputies, many friends of people in this body and the other body, who were contacted personally as they expressed to us their outrage and their feelings of horror and shock and grief as America came under attack on September 11.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, I was in Moscow shortly after the attack and had a chance to ride by our embassy in downtown Moscow. You could not see the front gate of the American embassy in Moscow for the literally thousands and thousands of flowers and personal notes that literally thousands of Russian ordinary citizens had come to place by our embassy in Moscow expressing their grief and concern with what happened to us.

So it is appropriate that we take this time to stand up and let the world know that today we are standing shoulder to shoulder with the people of Russia. We are supporting their efforts to rid their country of terrorism, and we stand with them to fully investigate the details of the outrageous act that occurred at the school in Beslan, as well as the other terrorist activities that have taken place in that nation.

Mr. Speaker, we have come a long way in the last 12 and 13 years since Russia threw off communism. It has been a rough road. There are those who say that perhaps Russia has not done enough, there are those that say we have not done enough. But now is not the time for us to debate differences, now is the time for us to stand together, shoulder-to-shoulder, and let the people of the world know that in the fight against terrorism we are one and the same.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank our colleagues for their leadership. It was just 4 short years ago that I hosted the current Speaker of the Duma, my friend Boris Gryzlov, at the Republican National Convention for 6 days. He stayed with me. At the time he was the First Deputy Speaker of the Duma. He went on to become the Minister of Interior. He is one of President Putin's best friends. In fact, he ran President Putin's reelection campaign.

Boris Gryzlov reached out to me as soon as that attack occurred. In words that I can only describe as overtly emotional, he said Congressman WELDON, all of us in Russia share the grief that is being shared by the people of your Nation.

So to our friend Boris Gryzlov, who stands today as the Speaker of the Russian Duma, a close adviser to President Putin, and to President Putin himself, representing all of the people of Russia, America stands ready to pass this resolution, I hope with overwhelming support of both parties, because leadership comes from the most distinguished leaders on foreign affairs issues of this body, that we rise up and let the people of Russia know that they are truly our brothers and sisters.

We pray for those victims, we pray for those families, we pray for those young children. As a teacher myself, I cannot believe on the first day of school, which is a great day in Russia, as my friend and chairman outlined in his opening statement, that they would attack young Russian children, the most vulnerable of their society.

So, Mr. Speaker, I thank our colleagues, I look forward to working to pass this resolution, and, more importantly, I look forward to delivering this message in person when I arrive in Moscow before the end this week.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, this tragedy brings the world's attention to a region of the globe that has been perhaps overlooked for too long, but it has also spurred debate about the next steps in an escalating conflict that transcends borders.

It should also galvanize debate about the threat that the world faces. As the bipartisan 9/11 Commission states, "The catastrophic threat at this moment in history is the threat posed by Islamic terrorism, especially the al Qaeda network and its affiliates and its ideology."

I believe this is what we are seeing in southern Russia. These are not criminals united by happenstance, but by militant Islam, united by ideology, doctrine and practice, its adherence drawn from Africa to Southeast Asia, from the Middle East to the Caucasus.

Al Qaeda's interest in the Caucasus is undisputed. Chechnya's lawless period of independence produced the conditions ripe for fomenting global jihad. Fighters, weapons, cash and ideology, much of it Saudi Wahabism, poured in from abroad.

Like al Qaeda, Chechen fighters have used front charities to secure funds. Benevolence International Foundation, whose assets were blocked by the U.S. Government for supporting al Qaeda, has also been found to support jihadists in Chechnya. In fact, evidence seized from Benevolence International indicates that it spent over 40 percent of its budget on Chechnya.

The bipartisan 9/11 Commission exposes other links, noting that several of the 9/11 hijackers, including Mohammed Atta, were headed to Chechnya to fight against the Russians. Only a chance meeting on that train in Germany with another terrorist caused the group to make the decision to travel to Afghanistan instead.

Several Chechens, including Shamil Basayev, believed to be the master mind of this school attack, received training in Afghan terror camps. Perhaps most telling, Afghanistan's Taliban was the only regime in the world to recognize Chechnya's independence in January of 2000 and to pledge it help in its fight against Russia.

Mr. Speaker, I could go on, but it is important to recognize these facts. It is important to recognize that this is the enemy that faces Russia, that faces the United States and that faces the world.

As I said earlier, many have commented on the Russian government's response to this war, to its policies in Chechnya and its anti-democratic actions. This is a debate we should have, but we should have this debate with a clear understanding of what the Russian people and what we are up against.

I urge the passage of this resolution.

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution and would like to thank my friend from California for introducing it. Just over a week ago, the civilized world agonized over the massacre of more than 300 Russian school children who were returning to school after summer vacation when Islamic terrorists took them hostage and ultimately, took their lives. This cowardly and inhumane act occurred just days after two other vile acts of terror—the bombing of two Russian airliners, which killed 89 innocent men, women, and children, and the Moscow subway bombing that killed nine.

Mr. Speaker, there is no denying that the situation in Chechnya is a complicated one. Despite the mutually destructive history of Russian-Chechen relations, the acts of terror that have been unleashed upon the Russian people are inexcusable, inhumane, and are representative of the evil that we face today in the War on Terror. The fact that those who carried out these brutal acts purposely picked children as their primary targets further illuminates their utter disregard for the rules of law and the norms of human conduct.

Today, as we express our solidarity with the Russian people, let us take time to remember the fact that the War on Terror is a transnational conflict that requires strong alliances among nations both large and small. The people of Russia have a friend in the United States of America. It is my strong belief, that the murderers who took the lives of children in Beslan share ties with others who seek to wreak havoc within our own borders. Let those who wish us ill know that the United States, Russia and our allies will stop at nothing to destroy the global network of Islamic fundamentalism and all other forms of terrorism.

As the United States House of Representatives expresses its solidarity with the Russian people, I would like to remind my colleagues

of the other victims of terrorism that the world has lost in recent years. People have mourned the losses of loved ones in Bali, Jerusalem, Madrid, Jakarta, New York, Washington, Baghdad, Kabul and various other places. May their memories and those of the children of Beslan, the passengers on the two aircraft and the people on the subway be the rallying cry for our ongoing struggle against terrorism.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 760.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION EFFICIENCY ACT OF 2004

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3478) to amend title 44, United States Code, to improve the efficiency of operations by the National Archives and Records Administration, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3478

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "National Archives and Records Administration Efficiency Act of 2004".

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF RECORDS RETENTION PERIODS.

(a) EXTENSION OF RECORDS RETENTION PERIODS BY REGULATION.—Section 2909 of title 44, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking "upon the submission of evidence of need,";

(2) by striking "and, in accordance with regulations promulgated by him," and inserting "and"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following: "The Archivist shall promulgate regulations in accordance with section 2104(a) of this title to implement this section."

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subsection (d) of section 3303a of title 44, United States Code, is amended by striking the second sentence.

SEC. 3. AUTHORITY FOR RECORDS CENTER REVOLVING FUND TO BE USED FOR THE PURCHASE AND CARE OF UNIFORMS FOR RECORDS CENTERS EMPLOYEES.

Subsection (a) under the heading "RECORDS CENTER REVOLVING FUND" in title IV of the Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 2000 (Public Law 106-58; 113 Stat. 460; 44 U.S.C. 2901 note), is amended by inserting after "expenses" in the first sentence the following: "(including expenses for uniforms or

allowances for uniforms as authorized by subchapter I of chapter 59 of title 5)".

SEC. 4. AUTHORITY TO CHARGE FEES FOR PUBLIC USE OF FACILITIES OF NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION.

(a) **PRESIDENTIAL ARCHIVAL DEPOSITORIES.**—Subsection (e) of section 2112 of title 44, United States Code, is amended by striking "space" and inserting "space, or for the occasional, non-official use of rooms and spaces (and services related to such use).".

(b) **NATIONAL ARCHIVES BUILDING AND OTHER BUILDINGS USED FOR RECORD STORAGE.**—Section 2903 of title 44, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting "(a)" before "The Archivist"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(b) When the Archivist considers it to be in the public interest, the Archivist may charge and collect reasonable fees from the public for the occasional, non-official use of rooms and spaces, and services related to such use, in the buildings subject to this section. Fees collected under this subsection shall be paid into an account in the National Archives Trust Fund and shall be held, administered, and expended for the benefit and in the interest of the national archival and records activities administered by the National Archives and Records Administration, including educational and public program purposes."

SEC. 5. AUTHORITY TO USE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS WITH STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, AND OTHER PUBLIC AND NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS TO FURTHER NARA PROGRAMS.

(a) **AUTHORITY.**—Chapter 21 of title 44, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"§ 2119. Cooperative agreements"

"(a) **AUTHORITY.**—The Archivist may enter into cooperative agreements pursuant to section 6305 of title 31 that involve the transfer of funds from the National Archives and Records Administration to State and local governments, other public entities, educational institutions, or private nonprofit organizations (including foundations or institutes organized to support the National Archives and Records Administration or the Presidential archival depositories operated by it) for the public purpose of carrying out programs of the National Archives and Records Administration.

"(b) **LIMITATIONS.**—Not more than \$25,000 may be transferred under a cooperative agreement entered into as authorized by subsection (a). Not more than a total of \$75,000 may be transferred under such agreements in any fiscal year.

"(c) **REPORT.**—Not later than December 31st of each year, the Archivist shall submit to the Committee on Government Reform of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on the provisions, amount, and duration of each cooperative agreement entered into as authorized by subsection (a) during the preceding fiscal year."

(b) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

"2119. Cooperative agreements."

SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS THROUGH FISCAL YEAR 2009 FOR NATIONAL HISTORICAL PUBLICATIONS AND RECORDS COMMISSION.

Section 2504(f)(1) of title 44, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (N), by striking "and";

(2) in subparagraph (O), by striking the period and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end of the following new subparagraphs:

"(P) \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2006;

"(Q) \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2007;

"(R) \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2008; and

"(S) \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2009."

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. PUTNAM) and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. PUTNAM).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3478, as amended.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, we have witnessed over the last several weeks in Florida just how quickly lives and property and years of work can be taken from us. Many are left with only memories in the wake of these storms, and I would like to thank President Bush and the Members of this House for the outpouring of assistance that we have received.

Our memories and the collective memory of our national life is what in part inspire us to move ahead and to rebuild in the face of tragedy. The custodian of our collective national memory is the National Archives, and I rise today to offer an amendment in the form of a substitute to H.R. 3478 to reauthorize an important part of that agency.

This legislation will reauthorize appropriations through fiscal year 2009 for the National Historic Publications to Records Commission, the eighth passage of this legislation since 1964. The NHPRC's mandate is to look outward, to provide assistance to non-Federal agencies, institutions and individuals committed to the preservation and use of American documentary resources.

The NHPRC remains today the only grant making organization, public or private, in the Nation whose only focus is the preservation of and increased access to American historical documentation in its myriad forms and formats, be it the quill pen or the computer.

Through its competitive grants, the NHPRC provides a kind of venture capital for the historical world, through which solutions to electronic records questions can be discovered and begin to be tested, and new initiatives and new projects in State and local government records, private archival institutions and documentary editions, can be launched and given vital support.

American history did not all happen in Washington. It has unfolded in every State and every locality, through private actions as well as those of the

government, and unless we safeguard historical records wisely, there will be gaping holes in our Nation's history.

Records created and maintained within each State are important to individuals and institutions in a democracy, not just national institutions, but government institutions at every level, as well as organizations in the private sector that have a great impact on American life.

The NHPRC safeguards holdings of the State and local archives, the university archival and manuscript collections and the documentary collections of libraries, historical societies and other cultural repositories, private and public.

They have revolutionized the study of American history. One of the Nation's leading historians has called this work the most important and lasting work of the 20th century, the most important work in the American history of the 20th century.

The NHPRC exists to stimulate the care and use of records that are beyond the NARA's jurisdiction. It does that by encouraging documentary work outside the Federal Government, with small grants to archival, historical and cultural organizations throughout our country. It is the only national funding agency that is directly addressing the challenges posed for recordkeeping and records preservation.

Among the types of grants that the commission makes are those designed to assist State and local governments with disaster preparedness to protect the vital records that document the rights and privileges of citizenship. We can attest to the need for that type of readiness in Florida.

Through grants, through working with State advisory boards and through contributing to funding partnerships, the NHPRC plays a critical role in promoting work to ensure that records of many kinds in many parts of the country will be safe and accessible for the scholars who need them.

As chairman of the Subcommittee on Technology, Information Policy, Intergovernmental Relations and the Census, which has jurisdiction over the National Archives, and as a citizen concerned about rights, accountability and history, I request that NHPRC be reauthorized to carry on its important work.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3478. This bill makes several changes to Title 44 of the U.S. Code that will improve the efficiency of the National Archives and Record Administration. My colleague, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. PUTNAM), has done a terrific job of detailing those changes.

In addition, this bill reauthorizes the National Historic Publications and Records Commission, NHPRC, for 4 years at the current level of \$10 million.

I strongly support the reauthorization of the NHPRC. However, I am disappointed that we did not increase the authorization for this program. It is even more tragic that the administration has not fully funded the commission for 2005. The failure to fund this commission will result in the loss of important parts of the history of every State and local government in our country. Much of the good work funded by the commission will have to be put on hold because the administration cut \$7 million from the NHPRC budget.

My colleague on the other side of the aisle detailed how we need to preserve the documents in Florida even when we have catastrophes and hurricanes, and so forth. Let me describe just a few of the programs that have been supported by NHPRC in New York over the past several years.

The New York State archives in Albany was given assistance by the NHPRC to organize and make available materials of the effect of the World Trade Center disaster on the lives of New Yorkers. Channel 13, the local education station, was given funds to preserve shows of particular historical significance from the 1970s onward.

□ 1530

The American Foundation For the Blind was provided funds to archive the records of Helen Keller. Hunter College received funds to arrange 15 collections of materials documenting the history and culture of Puerto Ricans.

In addition, NHPRC had provided funds to assist in preserving the papers of Alexander Hamilton; Aaron Burr; Samuel Gompers; John Jay; the slave diary of Elizabeth Drinker; Florence Kelley, the letters of this great settlement leader; and the writer and activist Harriet Jacobs, just to name a few. The list goes on and on.

NHPRC has also been at the forefront of research on preserving electronic documents. Long before most agencies knew they even had a problem, NHPRC was funding research on this important issue.

Electronic records present historical organizations with two quite distinct problems. First, the technological issues of preserving our electronic documents across time are extremely complex. The methods for creating these documents multiply yearly, as does the way in which these documents are stored. However, very little has been done to assure these documents can be read 10 years later. Secondly, electronic records have resulted in increasing both the volume of records created and the volume of records that historians want to keep.

Electronic records confront State and local archives and historical societies with the very same challenges as they do the Federal Government. The National Archives has spent millions of dollars on the Electronic Records Initiative, and real progress has been made in developing a system for preserving the electronic records of the

Federal Government. NHPRC has been one of the few places these State and local organizations could go to get help confronting this complex technological and historical problem. It should also be noted that NHPRC was one of the first Federal organizations to recognize the need for research on preserving electronic documents.

Mr. Speaker, absolutely every day in Washington, D.C., as we go about our business, we are reminded of our Nation's history. Buildings and documents are preserved and displayed for all to see. Every citizen deserves that opportunity, not just when they visit their Nation's Capital, but as they walk about the towns in which they live. NHPRC makes it possible for State and local governments to develop the tools and expertise to maintain their own history.

Even if NHPRC was fully funded at \$10 million, that would only be about \$200,000 per State. That does not go very far. As I have said at the outset, Mr. Speaker, I strongly support the passage of this bill, and I hope that the chairman of the subcommittee will work with me and the gentleman from Florida (Chairman PUTNAM) to raise awareness of the many valuable programs sponsored by NHPRC so that we can increase the authorization level the next time that it comes around.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to conclude by saying that if we do not learn from our past, we may repeat the mistakes of those who went before us. If we do not preserve our past, we cannot learn from it, and each locality has their own unique circumstances and their own unique history. Maintaining our time capsule of government words and deeds is a fundamental responsibility of our government. This legislation is committed to that responsibility, and I urge my colleagues to join me and the chairman in supporting this.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I appreciate the support of the distinguished gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) and the hard work that the ranking member of this subcommittee, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY), has put into this legislation; and I urge its passage.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. PUTNAM) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3478, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title was amended so as to read: "A bill to amend title 44, United States Code, to improve the efficiency of operations by the National Archives and Records Administration and to reauthorize the National Historical Publications and Records Commission."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ARCHIE SPIGNER POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4632) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 19504 Linden Boulevard in St. Albans, New York, as the "Archie Spigner Post Office Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4632

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. ARCHIE SPIGNER POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 19504 Linden Boulevard in St. Albans, New York, shall be known and designated as the "Archie Spigner Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the Archie Spigner Post Office Building.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TURNER) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TURNER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support H.R. 4632, a post office designation act sponsored by the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS). The legislation before us honors Archie Spigner, a man who has been a political institution in Queens and indeed all of New York City for more than a quarter of a century.

Archie Spigner served a respected tenure on the New York City Council from 1974 until 2001. Mr. Spigner ultimately became the second highest ranking member of the council as he rose to the post of deputy majority leader. In addition, he served on the advisory board of the National League of Cities, an urban advocacy organization.

Mr. Speaker, I know the gentleman from New York considers Mr. Spigner a close friend and political ally. That is why I am pleased to join with him today in urging passage of H.R. 4632. The post office in the legislation is appropriately located within Archie Spigner's former district at Linden Boulevard and 196th Street in Queens.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleague in consideration of H.R. 4632, legislation designating the United States postal facility in St. Albans, New York, after Archie Spigner. This measure, which was unanimously reported by our committee on July 21, 2004, was introduced by the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) on July 21, 2004. H.R. 4632 enjoys the support and cosponsorship of the entire New York delegation.

A native New Yorker, Archie Spigner was born and educated in New York. He was called early on into the world of politics and community activism.

In 1974, Mr. Spigner began his first term as a city councilman from Southeast Queens. As a member of the New York City Council, Mr. Spigner chaired the committees on Housing and Building, Economic Development, and the Legislative Office of Budget Review.

As a result of his legislative prowess, he was able to assume the post of deputy majority leader, the second highest position in the New York City Council.

Mr. Spigner served on the advisory board of the National League of Cities, the City Council Budget Negotiating Team, and liaison for the Queens delegation. As district leader and executive member of the Guy R. Brewer United Democratic Club, Mr. Spigner was instrumental in electing the first African American Supreme Court Justice, Assembly member, State Senator, and Congress member in the Borough of Queens.

He was also instrumental in the campaigns for the Honorable David Dinkins, former mayor of the City of New York; the Honorable Percy Sutton, former Manhattan borough president, the Honorable Carl McCall, former state comptroller; former Congressman Floyd H. Flake; and my friend and colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS).

Archie Spigner retired from the New York City Council in 2001; and although retired, Mr. Spigner is still involved in politics and community affairs.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS), for seeking to honor this political legacy of City Council Member Archie Spigner in this manner. I urge swift passage of H.R. 4632.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY).

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in honoring former Council Member Archie Spigner. I had the great honor of serving with him as a member of the Housing and Buildings and Economic Development Committee of the New York City Council, a committee which he chaired for many years with great distinction, with great judgment, honesty, and fairness. In a city that has a terrific need, a

deep need for affordable housing, he was one of the truly outstanding leaders in our city in the area of working to build more housing that is affordable, and truly as a leader in our city, serving for many years as the deputy majority leader.

He was also active on a national level, with the League of Cities. He dedicated, really, his life to the problems of cities; and he used to say that one of the great challenges of the next century would be who pays for the cities, with their ailing infrastructure and their many, many needs for housing and other areas.

He not only was active in the National League of Cities. He was on the Finance Committee and the City Committee on the Budget, and I had the honor of serving with him on the Committee on the Budget where he was a great bridge-builder. He would often negotiate compromises that would enable us to move a budget to the floor for a vote. He is an outstanding person, kind and wonderful. He is very active politically also and played a major role in the election of one of my good friends and colleagues, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS), along with many other important leaders in New York City and State.

Even though Archie retired from the City Council in 2001, he has continued to be an important leader and adviser on both the city and local level. He is a terrific person. To know him is to love him.

I am delighted to join my colleagues today in naming this important building after him and in really applauding his lifetime of service to the communities in Queens and the City and the State of New York.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleague and fellow New Yorker, Mr. MEEKS in supporting this bill, H.R. 4632, to name the post office in St. Albans, Queens, New York after my old and close friend, Archie Spigner.

Archie Spigner and I go back a long time in the political life of New York; myself in Harlem and Archie in St. Albans. He has been providing leadership in his community for nearly four decades. He has provided the shoulders for many of our current successful leaders. It is unfortunate that term limits have deprived his community of his representation. Archie held his seat from 1974 until term limits ended his service in the New York City Council in 2001.

As District Leader and Executive Member of the Guy R. Brewer United Democratic Club, he was instrumental in electing the first African-American Supreme Court Justice, Assembly Member, State Senator and Congress Member in the Borough of Queens. He was a leader in the campaigns of the Hon. David Dinkins, Hon. Percy Sutton, Hon. Carl McCall, our former colleague Congressman Floyd H. Flake and the sponsor of this bill, the current member from St. Albans, our distinguished colleague GREG MEEKS. He and I have been allies on countless battles in the effort to provide equality, opportunity, and justice for our constituents, for New Yorkers and Americans.

Having a public building in this historic African American community named after as an

esteemed member of the community as Archie Spigner is quite fitting.

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I come before you today to honor a man that has given much to my district and asked for very little.

Former City Council Member Archie Spigner is considered the Godfather of African American politics in my district in southeast Queens. A mentor to many of our current successful leaders, Archie held his seat from 1974 until term limits ended his service in the New York City Council in 2001.

As a member of the City Council, Archie rose to the post of Deputy Majority Leader—the second highest position in the Council. His legislative responsibilities included Chairmanships of the Committees on Housing and Buildings, Economic Development and the Legislative Office of Budget Review. He also served on the Council's Budget Negotiating Team and acted as liaison for the Council's 14 member Queens delegation. He was elected to and served on the advisory board of the National League of Cities, an advocacy group for our Nation's urban areas.

As District Leader and Executive Member of the Guy R. Brewer United Democratic Club, he was instrumental in electing Queens' first African-American Supreme Court Justice, the first African-American Assembly Member, the first African-American State Senator, and the first African-American Member of Congress. He played a pivotal role the mayoral campaigns of David N. Dinkins and Percy Sutton, as well as the gubernatorial campaign of H. Carl McCall. Archie helped elect my predecessor to Congress, and of course, provided indispensable support and counsel when I sought this office.

A post office facility bearing Archie's name, located a few blocks from the headquarters from which Archie's political organizing emanated will be a reminder to the community he served long and well of the gratitude they owe to this man who made a difference in their everyday lives and effectively represented them in the corridors of New York City government.

Please join me in designating the Saint Albans postal facility the Archie Spigner Post Office Building, in honor of this accomplished gentleman.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, we have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of H.R. 4632, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TURNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4632.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORING FORMER PRESIDENT
WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 58TH
BIRTHDAY

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to

the resolution (H. Res. 717) honoring former President William Jefferson Clinton on the occasion of his 58th birthday.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 717

Whereas former President William Jefferson Clinton was born in Hope, Arkansas, on August 19, 1946;

Whereas William Jefferson Clinton attended Georgetown University as an undergraduate and received a Rhodes Scholarship in 1968;

Whereas William Jefferson Clinton received a law degree from Yale University in 1973;

Whereas William Jefferson Clinton established a record of public service as Attorney General of Arkansas, Governor of Arkansas, and Chairman of the National Governors Association;

Whereas William Jefferson Clinton campaigned for and won the Democratic nomination for President in 1992;

Whereas William Jefferson Clinton was elected the 42d President of the United States in 1992 and was reelected for a second term in 1996;

Whereas during William Jefferson Clinton's time in office the United States experienced 8 years of economic expansion, job growth and the transformation of a budget deficit into a budget surplus;

Whereas William Jefferson Clinton rallied the members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to put an end to ethnic cleansing in the Balkans and to depose the murderous regime of Slobodan Milosevic, actions which eventually led to the signing of the Dayton Peace Accords;

Whereas William Jefferson Clinton played a major role in the Good Friday Peace Accords which finally brought peace to warring Northern Ireland; and

Whereas, in the words of President George W. Bush, William Jefferson Clinton "showed a deep and far-ranging knowledge of public policy, a great compassion for people in need, and the forward-looking spirit the Americans like in a President": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives honors former President William Jefferson Clinton on the occasion of his 58th birthday on August 19, 2004, and extends best wishes to him and his family.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TURNER) and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TURNER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the House of Representatives, I gladly wish former President Bill Clinton a happy belated birthday. Last month, on August 19, President Clinton turned 58, and House Resolution 717 salutes our

Nation's 42nd President on that occasion.

Mr. Speaker, our well-known honoree today was born in the small town of Hope, Arkansas, as William Jefferson Blyth, IV in 1946, 3 months after the death of his father. After his mother remarried a few years later, the future President took the name of his stepfather, Clinton, as a teenager. He came to college here in Washington at Georgetown University and later earned a law degree at Yale. He entered politics and went on to become Attorney General and then Governor of the State of Arkansas.

Then, Bill Clinton, the little-known chief executive of Arkansas, shocked the world when he sought and was elected to the Presidency in 1992. Four years later, he became the first Democrat since Franklin Delano Roosevelt to win a second term. His depth of policy knowledge and poignant speaking ability served him very well while he presided over the Nation for 8 years.

A key event of Clinton's Presidency was the brokerage of peace in the Balkans. The Dayton Peace Accords, which ended the war in the Balkans, were negotiated at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, located in my district. Today, the Dayton Peace Accords remains a significant foreign policy achievement of the Clinton administration.

Mr. Speaker, today it is especially gratifying to wish a happy birthday to President Clinton because of all that he has gone through in recent days. As we all know, the former President underwent a 4-hour quadruple coronary artery bypass operation in New York City a week ago today.

□ 1545

Fortunately, we understand President Clinton is doing well and should make a full recovery over the next few weeks. Without question, the thoughts and the prayers of the House of Representatives are with President Clinton.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to wish President Clinton a happy birthday at a time when he has been on the minds of so many Americans.

I thank my colleague in the Committee on Government Reform, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY), for introducing this House resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

On August 19, William Jefferson Clinton, our 42nd President, celebrated his 58th birthday. Today, we honor him not just for serving as our Nation's 42nd President, but for the legacy that President Bush recently described as "a deep and far-ranging knowledge of public policy, a great compassion for people in need, and the forward-looking spirit Americans like in a President."

We honor President Clinton for presiding over our Nation's longest ever

economic expansion, largest ever budget surplus, and the growth of 22 million jobs during his Presidency. We honor President Clinton for projecting American power on the world stage, to further the cause of international peace and understanding, without antagonizing our historic allies, and we honor him for helping to broker the Good Friday Accords for Northern Ireland, engaging in Middle East peace talks, and bringing an end to ethnic cleansing in the Balkans. We honor President Clinton for encouraging Americans to care for their fellow men and women, creating AmeriCorps, which engages more than 50,000 Americans each year in community service.

At this moment, President Clinton is recovering from an unexpected but perhaps life-saving surgery in New York City. We in Congress are thankful for President Clinton's improved health and send forth our thoughts and prayers to him and his family, especially Senator HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON and his daughter Chelsea. We wish him a complete and speedy recovery.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from Virginia (Chairman TOM DAVIS) for moving this resolution through his committee in a speedy manner and to the House leadership for bringing it to the floor for this consideration today.

Mr. Speaker, from his birth in a town called Hope in the State of Arkansas through his education at Georgetown University, Oxford and Yale Law School, to his service in Arkansas as Attorney General, Governor and Chairman of the National Governors' Association, to his two terms as President of the United States, to now as a private citizen, still engaged and thoughtful on our Nation's public policy, we honor President Clinton. President Clinton, happy birthday, and we hope you get well soon.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS).

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, as one who grew up, went to school, still have strong family ties, social ties in the State of Arkansas, on the occasion of President William Jefferson Clinton's 58th birthday, it is with great pride that I stand to celebrate and to honor the life of the man who epitomizes the American dream and makes the Horatio Alger story become real.

Born in the tiny town of Hope, Arkansas, on August 19, 1946, President Clinton demonstrated from an early age the determination and vision that would ultimately take him to the White House and lead our country to a period of economic prosperity that has been unrivaled by any period in American history.

As a man who always fought for those who could not always fight for themselves, Bill Clinton after graduating from Yale Law School spurned

private practice and began a career in public service.

President Clinton began his political career after being elected Attorney General in 1976. He went on to serve as the Governor of Arkansas, and by the time Governor Clinton left Arkansas for the White House the State of Arkansas had been transformed from a State that faced large deficits and polarizing issues into a shining example of what government can do for its citizens when those in government put aside partisan differences in the best interest of what is right.

As America's 42nd President, Bill Clinton faced an even more daunting task, and in 1992, the American people were fed up with government. The economy was in bad shape. Unemployment was at a record high, and it was a time when many American parents struggled with basic financial decisions such as what holiday presents they could afford to buy their children.

By the time President Clinton left office 8 years later, he had led our country out of this darkness and into one of the brightest eras in American history, the lowest unemployment rate in modern times, the lowest inflation rate in 30 years, the highest home ownership in the United States history, and dropping crime rates in many American cities. Contrary to the bogus stereotype thrown at Democrats, he proposed the first balanced budget in decades, balanced the budget, and then went on to produce a surplus.

Since leaving office, President Clinton has continued his lifelong odyssey of working for those in need. Working from his office in Harlem, President Clinton has remained engaged on many social issues. Just last year, he brokered an historic agreement with four generic drug companies to provide low-cost AIDS drugs in developing countries. The world is a better place today because of the 58 years President Clinton has given us so far, and we look forward to many more.

We are pleased to hear that President Clinton is expected to make a full recovery from his bypass surgery. We certainly wish him and his family the best, and take this opportunity to say thank you, Mr. President, and happy birthday.

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I came to Congress with President Clinton in 1992. It was called the Year of the Woman, where many people voted for women candidates, not as a slogan, but as a force to be reckoned with, and we came to Washington and we worked together, not only for women, children and families, but during this time we doubled the funding for breast cancer research, banned assault weapons, put more police on the streets and more teachers in the classroom. We narrowed the gap between those in poverty and those that are affluent, which is a good trend for this country, an important trend.

During his 8 years, we had really I could say the best economy in my life-

time, the first balanced budget. He came to Washington with a \$250 billion deficit, and when he left, it was a huge, huge surplus.

I remember very much his hard work on his initiative to reinvent government and to make government more accountable to the people that we serve.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Indiana (Ms. CARSON).

Ms. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, one of my favorite passages is that all good and perfect gifts come from on high, and we are here today to renew a celebration of a President on the occasion of his 58th birthday, William Jefferson Clinton, 42nd President of the United States.

What I admire most about President Clinton, he was an extraordinary individual who related very well to ordinary people, and the ordinary people of this world loved Bill Clinton.

He was born on August 19, 1946, in Hope, Arkansas, and began a record of stellar public service to the country and humanity as a very young man.

President Clinton's administration would be noted for the creation of 22 million jobs, the rallying of international support to stop the ethnic cleansing in the Balkans, and reaffirming U.S. recognition of Africa as a continent of the birthplace of humanity with many countries, cultures and vast potentials.

I had the privilege of going to Africa with Mr. Clinton and saw his concern and compassion for the women and children and men who were battling AIDS and saw how he has made the battle against AIDS and HIV a focal point of his foundation's activities, which does not surprise me.

I want to say to the President, in the event that he receives this video message of his colleagues in the United States House of Representatives, I wish you a rapid recovery. You, unlike me, knew what you were going into as an open heart surgery recipient. I did not know it and was not fast enough to have it explained to me. I just got it, and I want to wish you well. I am so happy it turned out for you as well as it did, and God bless.

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

President Clinton's leadership was instrumental in expanding freedom and democracy around the world and really uniting a divided world. He was a uniter, and he worked to bring people together, and he was very, very loved. People felt very comfortable about Bill Clinton and everybody liked him.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN).

(Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I, along with my con-

stituents and all of the American people, want to extend a happy birthday to William Jefferson Clinton. His leadership in so many areas is sorely missed, in particular as today on the assault rifles that without his leadership we would not have passed. Many Members gave up their seats in the House of Representatives because they felt it was the right and honorable thing to do to protect the American people from these assault rifles.

We had leadership in President Clinton in so many areas. He had the foresight to appoint Jesse Brown as the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, who fought for the veterans. His contributions as far as economic development, housing, laying the foundation for a program that is being gutted under this last administration, it just goes on and on.

So I would like to put my comments in the RECORD and let President Clinton know that I dearly love him and the people dearly miss him.

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to express the admiration and support of the New York delegation, many of whom are in New York City now at 9/11 events and will be joining me in this Congress in tributes in writing later.

Let me just end by saying that Bill Clinton is loved and admired by millions of Americans and by countless others around the world, and we want him to know that he, as he is recovering, is in the thoughts and prayers of this Congress and the country. We are with him in his courageous battle to heal himself so that he can return to his good works and helping other people.

So happy birthday, Mr. President, and get well soon.

Mr. Speaker, seeing no other speakers, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

It was during the Clinton administration when Congress was controlled by Republicans that the Federal deficit started to shrink. It was not until the fiscal year 1995 that the Republican budget was in place that deficits turned into surpluses.

□ 1600

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the adoption of House Resolution 717 that honors former President William Jefferson Clinton.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in enthusiastic support of H. Res. 717, honoring former President William Jefferson Clinton on the occasion of his 58th birthday. I wish him happiness—and health—in his 58th year.

The outlines of President Clinton's story have become familiar to us. Born in the small town of Hope, Arkansas, the young Bill Clinton began cultivating the values—compassion, perseverance and commitment to social justice—that would guide him throughout his Presidency.

He benefitted from the love and will of his mother—Virginia Clinton—a widow and survivor of domestic violence who worked tirelessly to support her children. He was a dutiful son, a protective brother, and a gifted student. In college, Clinton juggled coursework with an internship for Senator Fulbright, relishing his introduction to politics. Awarded the prestigious Rhodes Scholarship, Clinton went on to Oxford University and Yale Law School. There he met his match and wife-to-be in the form of a driven Hillary Rodham.

Mr. Speaker, it was as President that Mr. Clinton captured the hearts, the imagination, the hope, of so many Americans. A post-Cold War President, Bill Clinton believed we must become a domestic as well as a military superpower. He knew our strength came from more than just our military might, but from our commitment to the ordinary men and women of this country. He nurtured our country's strength through economic growth, support for the middle class and a ladder for the poor.

Bill Clinton forged a Third Way, a new path to bipartisanship that remains a model for lawmakers and citizens alike. He made our streets safer with the Brady bill, he made our working families stronger with the Earned Income Tax Credit, and he made our economy soar by balancing the budget and erasing the deficit. He protected our environment, he created jobs, he strengthened alliances across the world and he labored for peace.

Mr. Speaker, President Clinton continues to be a devoted public servant, crusading against the global AIDS pandemic. His foundation has succeeded in lowering the cost of HIV/AIDS tests and treatment for millions of people in developing countries across the world.

I am fortunate to call Bill Clinton a friend. I have seen him light up a crowded room, and I have seen him connect with struggling individuals in a way that only he can. A musician and a musician, he is a Blues man with soul. He knows the sorrow of life's harsh realities, and he knows the joy that comes from striving towards our collective potential. Most of all, Bill Clinton is a man of heart. I wish him—and his heart—continued health. I thank Congresswoman MALONEY for sponsoring this resolution and I urge my colleagues to support its passage.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to add to the overwhelming support of this House for this resolution honoring former President Bill Clinton as he celebrates his 58th birthday.

President Clinton is a gifted and charismatic leader who has devoted his professional life to public service.

His administration was marked with great economic success, transforming quadrupled budget deficits into a budget surplus. He achieved the lowest unemployment rate in 28 years, the lowest percentage of Americans on welfare 29 years, and the lowest inflation rate in 33 years.

During his presidency, the economy expanded by 50 percent in real terms, and when he left office, the U.S. had a gross national product of \$10 trillion—one-quarter of the entire world economic output.

During his administration, 15 million jobs were created and average wages rose. Home ownership rates were the highest in history. Funding public education, saving Social Security, and ensuring health care for all Americans were priorities.

Our economic success was a sign of stability that sparked growth in domestic and international markets.

He was a great supporter of human rights and promoting peace through humanitarian relief efforts, refugee assistance, and aiding in peace process negotiations.

I was honored to accompany President Clinton on historic trips to Northern Ireland and Africa. We went as ambassadors of peace and reconciliation, and it was heartening to see how well received we were by our international hosts. The people of this country were welcomed and well respected abroad.

I have great respect and admiration for him personally and for his outstanding leadership of our great country, and I believe his legacy will long enjoy the approval of a grateful nation.

I extend to him my best wishes for a happy birthday, and I offer my wholehearted support for this resolution.

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TURNER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, House Resolution 717, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

THOMAS E. CREEK DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4836) to name the Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in Amarillo, Texas, as the "Thomas E. Creek Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center."

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4836

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. NAME OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER IN AMARILLO, TEXAS.

The Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in Amarillo, Texas, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the "Thomas E. Creek Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center". Any reference to that medical center in any law, regulation, map, document, record, or other paper of the United States shall be considered to be a reference to the Thomas E. Creek Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4836 would name the VA Medical Center in the City of

Amarillo, Texas, for Lance Corporal Thomas E. Creek. This heroic Marine gave his life on February 13, 1969, to save fellow Marines by falling on a grenade near Cam Lo, Vietnam. He was awarded our Nation's highest military declaration, the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Lance Corporal Creek was only 18 years old when he went above and beyond the call of duty while serving as rifleman with Company I, 3rd Battalion, 9th Marines. He was one of three Medal of Honor recipients who served with the 9th Marines during the Vietnam War.

I commend my distinguished colleague, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. THORNBERRY), for introducing H.R. 4836 to honor one of our Nation's heroes, and I will momentarily yield to him.

The VA medical center in Amarillo, Texas, Mr. Speaker, opened in 1940 and played an important role during and after World War II in caring for and rehabilitating U.S. servicemembers. The medical center today provides general medical and surgical treatment and alcohol rehabilitation and vocational rehab services for veterans. Expansion and renovation projects have kept the facility modern, and it currently has some 69 inpatient beds and 120 nursing care beds. I think it is entirely fitting and appropriate to remember the ultimate sacrifice of this young brave Marine by naming the Amarillo VA Medical Center for him.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. THORNBERRY), the prime author of this bill.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairman, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH); and the ranking member, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS); the subcommittee chairman, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SIMMONS); and all the members of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, including John Bradley of the staff, for their assistance and support with this measure.

I also want to thank all my Texas colleagues. Each of them is a cosponsor of this bill, as is the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), and the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL), to whom I am also grateful.

I want to acknowledge my staff members who have worked on this issue, especially Sylvia Nugent and Bryan Whitworth.

I also want to recognize Larry Milam, Selden Hale, Pat Cunningham, Marvin Graham, and the other veterans of the Texas panhandle region who initiated this effort, as well as the veterans organizations which have lent their enthusiastic support, including the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Vietnam Veterans of America, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Paralyzed Veterans of America, and AMVETS.

I want to acknowledge as well the excellent work in exploring Thomas

Creek's story done by the Amarillo Globe News and High Plains Public Radio. And, finally, I want to thank the Creek family for their patience and understanding and dignity with which they have approached this matter.

Mr. Speaker, in the late 1960s, Thomas E. Creek was in many ways a typical young man from the Texas panhandle. He had worked in a variety of jobs since he was 11 or 12 years old. He was a fan of Elvis Presley. He enjoyed being with his friends, and one remembered that he liked being in the middle of things. His brother, Ross, has been quoted as saying that "he didn't think Tom was afraid of anything. That's what gets me," he said to the Amarillo Globe News. "If he was afraid of anything, he kept it inside."

Tom Creek left school early and joined the Marine Corps. On the 4th of July, 1968, he stepped foot in Vietnam. In letters home, he called it hell. But on February 13, 1969, Marine Lance Corporal Thomas E. Creek was a rifleman with Company I, 3rd Battalion, 9th Marines, 3rd Marine Division. His unit was part of a resupply convoy that was ambushed by enemy forces using mortars, mines, fragmentation grenades, and small arms.

According to the documents recommending him for the Medal of Honor, the fierce combat found the men firing at point-blank range. Corporal Creek was struck in the neck by a bullet. Blood was seen flowing from the wound. But then he noticed a fragmentation grenade land between him and the rest of the squad. Though wounded, he threw his body on top of the grenade. One of the Marines with him recalled seeing him run towards the grenade and yell, "I've got it, Mac." His body absorbed the full impact of the grenade, saving the lives of at least five Marines nearby. His act inspired the rest of the squad to defeat the enemy and complete its mission to resupply the forward combat base. Eleven others were wounded, but only Tom Creek was killed.

Lance Corporal Thomas E. Creek was awarded the Medal of Honor, the highest honor our Nation can bestow. This bill, as the chairman mentioned, will rename the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Amarillo, Texas, the Thomas E. Creek Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

Dr. Craig Barnes has said that as he read the book "The Greatest Generation," he was struck by the fact that each of those described was a regular person. No one was born a hero. But when pushed, they found something heroic inside themselves. Heroes are ordinary people who refuse to be governed by fear when times are hard, he said.

Tom Creek was a regular person. He was also a hero. He reached down within himself and made a decision in a split second, a decision to sacrifice his life in order to save the lives of others. It is the same kind of sacrifice which men and women have made throughout

our history, from the Revolutionary War to the streets of Iraq and the mountains of Afghanistan, sacrifice for others while serving and defending the Nation.

I believe that naming this veterans medical center for this 18-year-old who sacrificed everything he had is a fitting tribute to his incredible heroism and sacrifice; that it will enhance the honor that rightfully belongs to those who have served our Nation and will be treated in this facility; and I hope that it will remind the rest of us that we too can refuse to be governed by fear and find something heroic inside ourselves as our duties demand.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation to honor Lance Corporal Thomas E. Creek by renaming the Amarillo VA Medical Center for him. As we are once again forced to confront on an almost daily basis the sacrifice of the young men and women who are serving our Nation, it is fitting and appropriate that we continue to honor the uncommon bravery of those soldiers who came before them.

Thomas Creek embodied such bravery, when in February of 1969 he selflessly gave his own life to save the lives of fellow Marines in Vietnam.

Mr. Speaker, by all accounts, Thomas Creek was a young man who deserves this honor which we can bestow upon him today, and I am proud to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4836.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill, H.R. 4836.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

THOMAS P. NOONAN, JR., DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OUTPATIENT CLINIC

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1318) to name

the Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic in Sunnyside, Queens, New York, as the "Thomas P. Noonan, Jr., Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic."

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1318

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. NAME OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OUTPATIENT CLINIC, QUEENS, NEW YORK.

The Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic in Sunnyside, Queens, New York, shall be known and designated as the "Thomas P. Noonan, Jr., Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic". Any reference to such clinic in any law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States shall be considered to be a reference to the "Thomas P. Noonan, Jr., Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1318 would name the Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic in the City of Sunnyside, Queens, New York, for Lance Corporal Thomas P. Noonan, Jr., a Marine, who on February 5, 1969, was killed in action in Quang Tri Province, Vietnam.

Lance Corporal Noonan was 25 years old on that fateful morning in Vietnam when serving as a fire team leader he was mortally wounded while valiantly trying to drag a wounded Marine to safety. For his heroic actions, he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, our Nation's highest military decoration.

I want to commend my distinguished colleague on the other side of the aisle, the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY), for introducing H.R. 1318. This is the second naming bill the Committee on Veterans' Affairs has brought to the floor today to honor servicemembers who gave their lives in Vietnam. These are bipartisan measures which pay homage to our fallen heroes. I am pleased to bring these bills before the House for its consideration.

I hope that these stories of bravery and sacrifice are an inspiration to the new generation of soldiers, sailors, Marines, and airmen who are so ably serving our country in the war against terrorism. By naming these facilities to honor Lance Corporals Noonan and Creek, we also signify our intent to continue providing health care to veterans of our Armed Forces now and into the future.

Again, I am grateful to my friend and colleague on the other side of the aisle for introducing it.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support the bill introduced by my colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY), to rename the Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic in Sunnyside, Queens, New York, after Lance Corporal Thomas P. Noonan, Jr.

Lance Corporal Noonan was mortally wounded in combat in Vietnam. For his actions under fire, he received the Congressional Medal of Honor and the Purple Heart. Mr. Speaker, I support this bill and thank my colleague for consideration in honoring a valiant veteran who gave his life defending the principles that America stands for.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY).

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN) for yielding me this time and for her leadership on this important committee.

Mr. Speaker, as a proud New Yorker and a representative of the people of Queens, New York, I am very pleased and honored to rise in strong support of H.R. 1318, a bill authored by my good friend and colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY).

This bill would designate the Federal Veterans Administration outpatient clinic located at 4103 Queens Boulevard in Sunnyside, Queens, as the Lance Corporal Thomas P. Noonan, Jr. Veterans Outpatient Clinic.

Thomas P. Noonan, the son of Thomas Patrick Noonan, Sr., and Florence, was a life-long resident of Woodside, Queens, New York. He attended school at St. Theresa's parish and graduated from Hunter College with a bachelor's degree in physical education in 1966.

On December 26, 1967, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve; and in July 1968 he was sent to the Republic of Vietnam, where he served as a mortar man with his battalion and later as a rifleman in the 3rd Marine Division. He was promoted to Lance Corporal on New Year's Day 1969.

On February 5, 1969, his company was ordered to change the position they had been holding near the Vandergrift Combat Base in A Sahau Valley. This change was made especially difficult by recent heavy rains. Descent down the steep hillside proved treacherous, and four leading men in the company were wounded by North Vietnamese soldiers concealed in the area.

The other members of the company were unable to rescue the four wounded Marines in the midst of heavy enemy fire. Noonan left his position of relative safety and descended through the hazardous terrain. Protected by rocky outcroppings, Noonan shouted words of encouragement to his fellow friends who were wounded.

Bracing himself, Noonan then made a dash towards the injured men and had started to drag the most seriously wounded one to safety when he himself

was hit by enemy fire. Noonan picked himself up and continued to drag the other soldier, his friend, away but was mortally wounded himself before he could carry his comrade to safety.

His heroic actions in the face of great danger so roused his fellow Marines that they launched an assault on the enemy position that forced the North Vietnamese soldiers to withdraw.

Noonan was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor by President Nixon, as well as the Purple Heart, the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, with two Bronze Stars, and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Lance Corporal Noonan's courage, inspiring initiative, and selfless devotion to duty upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country.

In 1996, to commemorate his life, his spirit, and his heroic acts, the City of New York dedicated a public park in his honor in Queens. Now this Congress is taking the appropriate step to name the VA outpatient clinic in Sunnyside, Queens, after Lance Corporal Noonan. This tribute enjoys the support of every major veterans service organization in New York State, and many local veterans posts throughout Queens, including but not limited to the Queens County American Legion; Queens County Catholic War Veterans; the Vietnam Veterans of America, Queens Chapter; and the John V. Daniels VFW Post.

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On behalf of my colleagues in New York and especially my Queens neighbor, the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY), I urge support of my colleagues for this fitting tribute to an American hero.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the bill H.R. 1318. This bill, which I have introduced, will designate the Federal Veterans Administration Outpatient Clinic located at 41-03 Queens Boulevard in Sunnyside, Queens as the "Lance Corporal Thomas P. Noonan, Jr. Veterans Outpatient Clinic."

On October 30, 2000, I presided at the opening of the Sunnyside Veterans Outpatient Clinic—something I had been championing on behalf of the veterans of northwestern Queens County. After the ribbon cutting ceremony, I was invited across the street for a drink with a few of the people who would most benefit from this clinic—the veterans of the John V. Daniels Veterans of Foreign Wars post.

That day, I sat down with the late Adolph Seifert, Post Adjutant and Ray Murray, Commander of the Post. And they told me about Lance Corporal Thomas Noonan.

Thomas P. Noonan was born November 18, 1943, in Brooklyn, NY, the son of Thomas Patrick Noonan, Sr., and Florence. He was a lifelong resident of Woodside, Queens; attended St. Theresa's Parish, Grover Cleveland High School in Ridgewood, and later grad-

uated from Hunter College with a bachelor's degree in physical education in 1966.

On December 26, 1967, Thomas Noonan enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve and was subsequently discharged to enlist in the Regular Marine Corps on 31 January 1968. Private Noonan completed recruit training with the 3d Recruit Training Battalion, Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, SC, in April 1968, and was promoted to private first class, 1 April 1968. Transferred to the Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, NC, he underwent individual combat training with the 1st Battalion, 1st Infantry Training Regiment.

Ordered to the Republic of Vietnam in July 1968, he was assigned duty as mortar man with H&S Company, 2d Battalion, 27th Marines, 1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF. In August, he was reassigned to the 3d Marine Division where he saw combat as a rifleman, M-79 man with Company G, 2d Battalion, 9th Marines. He was promoted to Lance Corporal on January 1, 1969.

On February 5, 1969, his company was ordered to change the position they had been holding near the Vandergrift Combat Base in Ashau Valley. This change made especially difficult by recent heavy rains; descent down the steep hillside provided treacherous and four leading men in the company were wounded by North Vietnamese soldiers concealed in the area. The other members of the company were unable to rescue the four wounded marines in the midst of heavy enemy fire. Noonan left his position of relative safety and descended the hazardous terrain. Protected by a rocky outcropping, Noonan shouted words of encouragement to the wounded men. Bracing himself, Noonan then made a dash toward the injured men and had started to drag the most seriously wounded one to safety when he himself was hit by enemy fire. Noonan picked himself up and continued to drag the soldier away, but was mortally wounded himself before he could carry his comrade to safety.

His heroic actions in the face of harrowing danger so roused his fellow marines that they launched an assault on the enemy position that forced the North Vietnamese soldiers to withdraw. Noonan was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor posthumously as well as the Purple Heart, the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal with two bronze stars and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Lance Corporal Noonan was survived by his parents, three sisters and one brother.

I was taken by his bravery and loyalty. After the request from Adolph Seifert to name the VA clinic in honor of Thomas P. Noonan, I got to work and put together legislation to enact this change.

It is an honor to be here today seeing this tribute pass the House of Representatives. This tribute today goes to his memory. But we would not be here today without the support of the late Adolph Seifert, or Ray Murray and Regis Quirin—all of the Daniels VFW Post.

But this legislation enjoyed the strong support of veterans all over Queens County and the State of New York. On a State level, this legislation enjoys the support of the American Legion, AMVETS, the Vietnam Veterans of America—which is currently headed by another Queens resident John Rowan—the Disabled American Veterans, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Marine Corps League, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, the Blinded

Veterans Association, the Eastern Paralyzed Veterans Association—based in my Congressional District in Queens—and the New York State Counsel of Veterans Organizations. Their help was invaluable in this process.

But I especially would like to note the help from local Queens County veterans chapters, starting with the Daniels VFW Post—the inspiration behind this tribute—as well as John Severa and the Queens County American Legion; William Roach and the Catholic War Veterans of Queens County; Donald Haber and the Jewish War Veterans Queens County Chapter; Thomas Lakeman and the Frank Kowalinski Post representing the Polish War Veterans of Queens County; Donald McBride and the Sgt Edward R. Miller VFW Post in Glendale, Queens. I want to thank them all.

I also want to pay tribute to Florence Noonan, the mother of Lance Corporal Thomas P. Noonan. While we pay tribute to a hero, she mourns the loss of a son. Lance Corporal Noonan's indomitable courage, inspiring initiative and selfless devotion to duty upheld the highest traditions of the U.S. Marine Corps. He gallantly gave his life for his country.

In 1996, to commemorate his life, his spirit and his heroism, the city of New York dedicated a public park in his honor in Queens. Now children can play and recreate in a safe community park dedicated to an American hero, who himself majored in physical education at Hunter College. Now, this Congress is taking the appropriate step to name the VA outpatient clinic in Sunnyside, Queens, after Lance Corporal Noonan.

On behalf of all of my New York State colleagues—Democrat and Republican, upstate and from the city—who were all cosponsors and supporters of this legislation, I am pleased that the House is debating this legislation and I look forward to its passage and enactment into law.

This is a fitting tribute to an American hero. Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1318.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1318.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

CASTILLO DE SAN MARCOS NATIONAL MONUMENT PRESERVATION AND EDUCATION ACT

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass

the bill (H.R. 2457) to authorize funds for an educational center for the Castillo de San Marcos National Monument, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2457

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

TITLE I—CASTILLO DE SAN MARCOS NATIONAL MONUMENT PRESERVATION ACT

SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the "Castillo de San Marcos National Monument Preservation and Education Act".

SEC. 102. VISITOR CENTER.

(a) **AUTHORIZATION.**—Subject to the availability of appropriations and the project being prioritized in the National Park Services 5-year, line-item construction program, the Secretary of the Interior (referred to in this section as the "Secretary") may design and construct a Visitor Center for the Castillo de San Marcos National Monument (referred to in this section as the "Monument").

(b) **PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE.**—The Visitor Center authorized in subsection (a) shall be located and constructed in accordance with the Preferred Alternative identified in the Record of Decision for the General Management Plan for the Monument, expected to be signed in 2005.

SEC. 103. COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.

The Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements with the City of St. Augustine, Florida, the Colonial St. Augustine Preservation Foundation, other Federal, State, and local departments or agencies, academic institutions, and non-profit entities for the planning and design, construction, management, and operation of the Visitor Center.

SEC. 104. BOUNDARY EXPANSION.

(a) **PROPERTY ACQUISITION.**—If the Preferred Alternative for the Visitor Center authorized by section 102 is located outside the boundary of the Monument, the Secretary is authorized to acquire the site for the Visitor Center, from willing sellers, by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, or by exchange.

(b) **ADMINISTRATION OF NEWLY ACQUIRED LAND.**—Land added to the Monument pursuant to subsection (a) shall be administered by the Secretary in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

(c) **BOUNDARY MODIFICATION.**—The boundary of the Monument shall be modified to reflect the acquisition of land authorized in subsection (a) after completion of the acquisition.

SEC. 105. PROJECT APPROVAL.

Prior to initiating any planning, design, or construction on the Visitor Center authorized by section 102, the project must be reviewed and approved by the National Park Service consistent with partnership construction guidelines established by that agency.

TITLE II—CASTILLO DE SAN MARCOS NATIONAL MONUMENT BOUNDARY MODIFICATION

SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the "Castillo de San Marcos National Monument Boundary Adjustment Act of 2004".

SEC. 202. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The early defense lines for Fort Marion, Florida, today known as the Castillo de San Marcos National Monument, included defenses extending in a line due west to the Sebastian River, a distance of about one half mile.

(2) In the 1830's, during the Seminole Wars in Florida, these defensive lines were maintained, but as Florida became more settled they fell into disrepair and/or became obsolete.

(3) In 1908 the War Department deeded much of the property running west to the Sebastian River to the St. Johns County Board of Public Instruction. The portion of this property remaining in federal ownership today is occupied by Orange Street, a City of St. Augustine, Florida street.

(4) For nearly a century, the City of St. Augustine has maintained and managed Orange Street, a modern city street, and associated utilities in the Orange Street corridor.

(5) Any archeological remains that are still present on the property overlaid by Orange Street are adequately protected by the City's archeological ordinances, and by the City having an archeologist on staff.

(6) Although the city currently operates Orange Street under a right-of-way from the National Park Service, from a management perspective it is appropriate for the City of St. Augustine to own Orange Street.

SEC. 203. BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT.

(a) **CONVEYANCE OF LAND.**—The Secretary of the Interior shall convey, without consideration, to the City of St. Augustine, Florida, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the lands known as Orange Street, a portion of the Castillo de San Marcos National Monument (Monument), consisting of approximately 3.1 acres, as shown on the map entitled Castillo de San Marcos National Monument Boundary Adjustment and Correction, numbered 343/80060, and dated April 2003. Upon completion of the conveyance, the Secretary shall revise the boundary of the Monument to exclude the land conveyed.

(b) **BOUNDARY REVISION.**—Effective on the date of the enactment of this Act, the boundary of the Monument is revised to include an area of approximately 0.45 acres, as shown on the map identified in subsection (a). The Secretary shall administer the lands included in the boundary as part of the national monument in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BLACKBURN). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) and the gentlewoman from Guam (Mr. BORDALLO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA).

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2457, the Castillo de San Marcos National Monument Preservation and Education Act. It is also entitled the Castillo de San Marcos National Monument Boundary Adjustment Act of 2004. I thank the gentleman for taking me out of order at the beginning as sponsor of this legislation to explain it for a second and speak in support.

The Castillo de San Marcos National Monument is the oldest existing permanent seacoast fortification in the continental United States. This is not only a unique national park, but also a

national treasure. This 16th century fortress is the most complete and historic fortification in the United States. The star-shaped fort, surrounding moat, and earthworks were constructed between 1672 and 1756 to protect Spanish territory in Florida and the shipping routes along the coast.

This National Monument was the site of a British garrison during the American Revolution and was last employed for defense purposes in 1898 during the Spanish-American War.

Madam Speaker, more than 1.5 million tourists visit this National Monument each year. This 16th century fortress, while it has never been conquered in battle, is straining under the modern-day requirements to accommodate its growing visitors' population.

I have been working with the Colonial St. Augustine Preservation Foundation, the City of St. Augustine and the National Park Service to improve and expand educational resources and public accommodations at this national park site.

As Members can imagine, adapting a four-century old structure with adequate public facilities, meeting handicap and disability standards and visitor educational facility requirements is not an easy task. This bill authorizes funding for both the museum, education and visitor center facilities to compliment and serve this important 16th century structure.

For the first time, this legislation appropriately authorizes the use of Federal funds to construct this visitor center and educational resource center for the Castillo de San Marcos National Monument. Not only will this new visitor center assist the fort in maintaining its historical integrity, but it will also accommodate visitors' needs and provide a great educational experience.

The Park Service is expected to complete a general management plan in the following months which will include design, planning and construction options at the facility. This legislation will properly authorize a major infrastructure improvement for our National Park Service.

Finally, this bill will preserve for future generations this historic site, and will add to the enjoyment and education for both visitors and local citizens.

Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH), the gentleman from California (Chairman POMBO), and others on both sides of the aisle for their help in pushing this legislation forward and urge its adoption.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Ms. BORDALLO asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, a new general management plan which will guide this National Monument called the Castillo de San Marcos National Monument for the next 10 to 15

years is currently being developed. As with the development of any new GMP, this is an extensive process which relies heavily on input from local communities as well as interested parties from around our country. Clearly, one of the most important issues to be resolved in this new GMP is the need for a visitor facility at the monument.

As introduced, we were concerned that H.R. 2457 effectively prejudged the issue of a visitor facility by mandating that one of the options on the table would be selected before the GMP process identified a preferred alternative. However, working with the sponsor of the legislation and the National Park Service, the bill before us today has been amended to simply provide the NPS with the funding and authorization necessary to implement whatever the GMP identifies as the best option.

Madam Speaker, we appreciate the cooperation of everyone involved, and urge our colleagues to support H.R. 2457.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2457, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AVAILABILITY OF NOAA REAL PROPERTY ON VIRGINIA KEY, FLORIDA

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4027) to authorize the Secretary of Commerce to make available to the University of Miami property under the administrative jurisdiction of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on Virginia Key, Florida, for use by the University for a Marine Life Sciences Center, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4027

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. AVAILABILITY OF NOAA REAL PROPERTY ON VIRGINIA KEY, FLORIDA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce may make available to the University of Miami real property under the administrative jurisdiction of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on Virginia Key, Florida, for development by the University of a Marine Life Science Center.

(b) MANNER OF AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary may make property available under this section by easement, lease, license, or long-term agreement with the University.

(c) AUTHORIZED USES BY UNIVERSITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Property made available under this section may be used by the Uni-

versity (subject to paragraph (2)) to develop and operate facilities for multidisciplinary environmental and fisheries research, assessment, management, and educational activities.

(2) AGREEMENT.—Property made available under this section may not be used by the University (including any affiliate of the University) except in accordance with an agreement with the Secretary that—

(A) specifies—

(i) the conditions for non-Federal use of the property; and

(ii) the retained Federal interests in the property, including interests in access to and egress from the property by Federal personnel and preservation of existing rights-of-way;

(B) establishes conditions for joint occupancy of buildings and other facilities on the property by the University and Federal agencies; and

(C) includes provisions that ensure—

(i) that there is no diminishment of existing National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration programs and services at Virginia Key; and

(ii) the availability of the property for planning, development, and construction of future Federal buildings and facilities.

(3) TERMINATION OF AVAILABILITY.—The availability of property under this section shall terminate immediately upon use of the property by the University—

(A) for any purpose other than as described in paragraph (1); or

(B) in violation of the agreement under paragraph (2).

(d) USE OF FACILITIES BY SECRETARY.—The Secretary may—

(1) subject to the availability of funding, enter into an agreement to occupy facilities constructed by the University on property made available under this section; and

(2) participate with the University in collaborative research at, or administered through, such facilities.

(e) NO CONVEYANCE OF TITLE.—This section shall not be construed to convey or authorize conveyance of any interest of the United States in title to property made available under this section.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) and the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN).

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4027. This is an important bill to my constituents, indeed to the people of all of south Florida.

Madam Speaker, this bill makes available to the property on Virginia Key, Florida, under the jurisdiction of

NOAA for use by the University of Miami for a marine life science center. This property may be made available to the University via easement, lease, license or long-term agreement.

Madam Speaker, Virginia Key, Florida, which is located just a few miles from downtown Miami, is the site of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric's National Marine Fisheries Service Southeast Fisheries Science Center. It is also the home for NOAA's Office of Atmospheric Research Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory, as well as the University of Miami's Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences.

Due to their proximity and because they overlap in research interest, NOAA and the Rosenstiel School have had a close working relationship for many years. This legislation is designed to maintain and strengthen that relationship.

Located on a 16-acre campus on Virginia Key in Miami, the Rosenstiel School is the only subtropical applied and basic marine and atmospheric research institute of its kind in the continental United States. Rosenstiel's research interests include satellite oceanography, with particular emphasis on remote sensing and satellite imagery, as well as experimental fish hatchery. It also leads in the field of global marine and atmospheric chemistry program, comprehensive oceanic and atmospheric numerical modeling activities, sedimentary geology and marine geophysics groups with considerable expertise in seismic methods, and has an innovative ocean acoustics program.

□ 1630

In short, Madam Speaker, the Rosenstiel School is a proud and indispensable establishment for all of us in south Florida, in the State of Florida and indeed throughout the Nation.

The genesis of a new University of Miami and NOAA marine science complex will bring together expertise in environmental and fisheries research, assessment and management, and facilitate the intellectual exchange of ideas and results. H.R. 4027 is a critical first step in reaching the goal of establishing a new marine science complex.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to have introduced this important legislation and am most appreciative of the consideration and focus of this vital project in my congressional district.

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I urge an "aye" vote on H.R. 4027. I compliment the gentlewoman from Florida for her leadership on behalf of her constituents and want to thank the Committee on Science for their assistance in moving this important legislation.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Ms. BORDALLO asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, H.R. 4027 is noncontroversial legislation that would encourage cooperative use of Federal land at Virginia Key, Florida under the administrative jurisdiction of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration between the Federal agency and the University of Miami. The existing long-term relationship between the two NOAA laboratories at Virginia Key and their neighbor, the University's Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, has produced an enviable record of scientific achievement.

While this legislation, Madam Speaker, will not authorize the conveyance of any Federal land, it is expected to provide helpful guidance for future collaboration among the institutions as they look to upgrade their respective research facilities at Virginia Key. I urge Members to support this legislation to enhance ocean and coastal scientific research.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BLACKBURN). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4027, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

WILSON'S CREEK NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2004

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4481) to amend Public Law 86-434 establishing Wilson's Creek National Battlefield in the State of Missouri to expand the boundaries of the park, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4481

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Boundary Adjustment Act of 2004".

SEC. 2. EXPANSION OF BOUNDARIES, WILSON'S CREEK NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD, MISSOURI.

(a) BOUNDARY EXPANSION; PRIVATE PROPERTY PROTECTIONS.—The first section of Public Law 86-434 (16 U.S.C. 430kk) is amended—

(1) by striking "That the Secretary" and inserting the following:

"SECTION 1. WILSON'S CREEK NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD: ESTABLISHMENT AND ACQUISITION OF LANDS.

"(a) ESTABLISHMENT, INITIAL BOUNDARIES.—The Secretary"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsections:

"(b) EXPANSION OF BOUNDARIES.—(1) The boundaries of the Wilson's Creek National Bat-

tlefield are revised to include lands and interests therein consisting of six parcels totaling 615 acres and identified as parcels '1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6' on the map entitled 'Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Proposed Boundary', numbered 410/80,037 and dated January 27, 2004. The map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

"(2) The Secretary is authorized to acquire the lands referred to in paragraph (1) by donation, by purchase from willing sellers with donated or appropriated funds, or by exchange. The Secretary may acquire by the same methods personal property associated with, and appropriate for, interpretation of the park.

"(c) ACCESS TO PRIVATE PROPERTY.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to—

"(1) require any private property owner to allow public access (including Federal, State, or local government access) to such private property; or

"(2) modify any provision of Federal, State, or local law with regard to public access to or use of private property.

"(d) LIABILITY.—The revision of the boundaries of the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield by subsection (b) shall not be considered to create any liability for, or to have any effect on any liability under any other law of, any owner of private property with respect to any person injured on that private property.

"(e) RECOGNITION OF AUTHORITY TO CONTROL LAND USE.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to modify the authority of Federal, State, or local governments to regulate land use.

"(f) PARTICIPATION OF PRIVATE PROPERTY OWNERS.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to require the owner of any private property located within the boundaries of the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield to participate in, or be associated with, the National Battlefield.

"(g) EFFECT OF EXPANSION.—The boundaries of the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, as revised by subsection (b), represent the area within which Federal funds appropriated for the purpose of this Act may be expended. The boundary revision shall not be construed to provide any nonexisting regulatory authority on land use within the National Battlefield or its viewshed by the Secretary or the National Park Service."

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 3 of such Act (16 U.S.C. 430mm) is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: "There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out section 1(b)."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) and the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may be given 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the majority whip.

Mr. BLUNT. I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of this legislation. H.R. 4481, the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Boundary Adjustment Act of 2004, will expand the park boundaries at the site of one of our Nation's most significant Civil War battles. H.R. 4481 has garnered the bipartisan support of the entire Missouri delegation and has received the bipartisan support of the entire House Resources Committee.

On August 10, 1861, just 20 days after the first battle of Bull Run, about 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers met just west of Springfield, Missouri on the banks of Wilson's Creek. The fight that ensued became the second major engagement of the Civil War, the first major battle west of the Mississippi River, and the first battle where a Union general was killed. Most importantly, however, the battle of Wilson's Creek dealt a decisive blow to the secessionist movement in Missouri and preserved Union control of the State.

When the National Park Service set aside 1,750 acres for the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield in 1960, not all of the land upon which the battle occurred was included nor was all the land that the Park Service recommended to be included put within the boundaries of the park. In fact, only about two-thirds of the battle site currently falls within the park's boundaries. At the time, the land surrounding the park had changed little since the battle took place and still has not had significant development around the park. Today, however, this land is becoming more attractive to developers. The southern portion of the park is located in the fastest growing county in Missouri and pressure to further develop the area will only increase.

With this bill, we have the opportunity to protect an additional 615 acres of this important battle site by authorizing the National Park Service to acquire specific parcels of land surrounding Wilson's Creek through donation, through purchase or exchange with willing landowners. With the acquisition of these parcels, the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield will contain 99 percent of the battle site.

H.R. 4481 will allow the National Park Service also to obtain one of the most valuable and distinctive Civil War collections ever assembled. General Sweeney's Museum of Civil War History, which is located on one of the parcels identified for acquisition, is a privately owned collection of artifacts related to the Civil War in Missouri and Arkansas, and the owners have indicated their eagerness to sell. By the way, those owners have been big supporters of the park in every way for a long time. This collection currently houses approximately 15,000 pieces, including Civil War documents, photographs, letters and diaries. The National Park Service's chief curator, the museum curator at Gettysburg National Park and the staff curator at

Harper's Ferry Center have all visited the Sweeney museum. These experts have praised the nature of the collection and confirmed its historical significance. The acquisition of the Sweeney museum, along with the John K. and Ruth Hulston Civil War Research Library, which was established at the park in 1985, will truly make Wilson's Creek National Battlefield an essential spot for historians and others.

H.R. 4481 will add priceless new assets to the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, preserve the battle site and allow future generations to experience the park just as Americans would have seen it more than 140 years ago. Madam Speaker, on behalf of our delegation and with appreciation to the Committee on Resources, I certainly ask the House to support this important legislation to protect the Wilson's Creek Battlefield and authorize the early addition of this property to the park.

Mr. RADANOVICH. I thank the gentleman from Missouri and I urge adoption of the bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Ms. BORDALLO asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, the majority has already explained the purpose of H.R. 4481. The battle at Wilson's Creek was the first major engagement of the Civil War west of the Mississippi and was important in keeping Missouri in the Union. The National Park Service supports the acquisitions authorized by the bill. The expansion of the national battlefield also has the support of the local community and Civil War historians.

The bill was amended to make several changes that while unnecessary do not undermine the overall purpose of the legislation. As such, we do not object to passage of H.R. 4481 by the House today.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4481, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CLARIFYING BOUNDARIES OF JOHN H. CHAFEE COAST BARRIER RESOURCES SYSTEM

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass

the bill (H.R. 3056) to clarify the boundaries of the John H. Chafee Coast Barrier Resources System Cedar Keys Unit P25 on Otherwise Protected Area P25P, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3056

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. REPLACEMENT OF CERTAIN JOHN H. CHAFEE COASTAL BARRIER RESOURCES SYSTEM MAP.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Of the 2 maps subtitled "P25/P25P" that relate to the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System unit designated as Coastal Barrier Resources System Cedar Keys Unit P25/P25P and are included in the set of maps entitled "Coastal Barrier Resources System" referred to in section 4(a) of the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (16 U.S.C. 3503(a)), the map depicting the northernmost area of that unit is hereby replaced by another map relating to that unit entitled "John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System Cedar Keys Unit P25/P25P" and dated February 9, 2004.

(b) AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary of the Interior shall keep the replacement map referred to in subsection (a) on file and available for inspection in accordance with section 4(b) of the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (16 U.S.C. 3503(b)).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) and the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may be given 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE).

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak in favor of H.R. 3056.

In 1992, Congress made changes to the Coastal Barrier Resources System that have effectively protected environmentally sensitive communities and have deterred residents from building or buying lands that are prone to natural disasters, such as flooding and erosion. Under the Coastal Barrier Resources Act, also known as COBRA, residents may build within the system but if they do, they will not qualify for Federal assistance. In order to qualify for Federal assistance, the most important being Federal flood insurance, residents must live in an excluded area.

The maps used to depict the Coastal Barrier Resources System were created over 10 years ago using the technology that was available at that time. Basically they were paper maps with longitude and latitude markings and

hand-drawn boundaries and land masses. Today we have digital technology available to more accurately depict where Congress intended the COBRA boundaries to actually lie. Unfortunately, this new technology has found a number of incorrect determinations. Areas that were meant to be excluded from the system were inadvertently included in the act.

Three such cases exist in my district in Cedar Key. Prior to purchasing their properties, all three families were told by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that the areas were in the "excluded area." The families purchased their properties, paid the premiums for the flood insurance required by the mortgage lender, but then last year they were told by the Fish and Wildlife Service that an error had been made and that in fact they were within the Coastal Barrier Resource System. Thus, they do not qualify for Federal flood insurance.

Can any of us imagine the anguish and heartache that they are feeling today? They paid premiums for flood insurance for years, only to be hit by back-to-back hurricanes Charley and Frances, and possibly the impending Ivan, and then they are told that because of an incorrect determination they have no coverage. We still do not know how many billions of dollars these disasters are going to cost the residents of the State of Florida. The assistance residents may receive from FEMA will only cover a fraction of the cost of damages in my area of Cedar Key. Moreover, flood insurance is virtually unavailable in the private market and can cost six times that of a federally insured flood policy. What is even worse is one of these families was in the process of selling their home last year and upon receiving the new determination from Fish and Wildlife, their home depreciated actually on the real estate market by over 50 percent.

My bill clarifies the boundaries of Unit P25 and the Otherwise Protected Area P25P of the Coastal Barrier Resources System where my constituents live. This bill uses digital technology to redraw the boundaries to better reflect the intent of Congress in 1992 and it excludes those families from the system. H.R. 3056 does not seek to add any areas to the excluded portion of the system. It merely clarifies the mistakes the outdated technology made in these instances. I believe it is imperative that our citizens receive the assistance that they are entitled to receive. It is imperative that Congress correct the flaws in this good law to ensure that more residents in the area are not adversely affected.

I would certainly like to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO), the chairman, and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCREST), the subcommittee chairman, for all their assistance with this bill. I urge the Members' favorable support of the bill.

Mr. RADANOVICH. I thank the gentlewoman from Florida.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Ms. BORDALLO asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the brief summary of the bill provided by the previous speaker. As noted, H.R. 3056 is noncontroversial legislation to correct a legitimate mapping error for a John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resource System unit in the State of Florida.

□ 1645

Recent hurricanes in Florida have dramatically shown that building on low-lying coastal barriers is inherently risky and costly both in lives and property. I might add, Madam Speaker, that if anyone is familiar with coastal areas and storms and the damage that occurs after such a storm, it would be a resident from Guam, where we have had three major typhoons in a year and a half.

Upholding the integrity of the Coastal Barrier Resources System is essential if we hope to protect the Federal taxpayer from the folly of subsidizing future foolhardy private development along these undeveloped high-risk areas.

I commend the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCREST), chairman of the Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans Subcommittee, and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE), the subcommittee's ranking Democrat member, for their diligent evaluation to ensure that the new maps adopted through the legislation are accurate and consistent entirely with the purposes of the Coastal Barrier Resources Act. I urge Members to support this noncontroversial legislation.

Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BLACKBURN). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3056, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HARPERS FERRY NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK BOUNDARY REVISION ACT OF 2004

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 1576) to revise the boundary of Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 1576

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Harpers Ferry National Historical Park Boundary Revision Act of 2004".

SEC. 2. HARPERS FERRY NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.

The first section of the Act of June 30, 1944 (58 Stat. 645, chapter 328; 16 U.S.C. 450bb), is amended to read as follows:

"SECTION 1. HARPERS FERRY NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—To carry out the purposes of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior (referred to in this Act as the 'Secretary') is authorized to acquire, by purchase from a willing seller with donated or appropriated funds, by donation, or by exchange, land or an interest in land within the boundaries as generally depicted on the map entitled 'Boundary Map, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park', numbered 385-80.021A, and dated April 1979.

"(b) BRADLEY AND RUTH NASH ADDITION.—The Secretary is authorized to acquire, by donation only, approximately 27 acres of land or interests in land that are outside the boundary of the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park and generally depicted on the map entitled 'Proposed Bradley and Ruth Nash Addition—Harpers Ferry National Historical Park', numbered 385-80056, and dated April 1, 1989.

"(c) BOUNDARY EXPANSION.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized to acquire, by purchase from a willing seller with donated or appropriated funds, by donation, or by exchange, land or an interest in land within the area depicted as 'Private Lands' on the map entitled 'Harpers Ferry National Historical Park Proposed Boundary Expansion', numbered 385/80,126, and dated July 14, 2003.

"(2) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary shall—

"(A) transfer to the National Park Service for inclusion in the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park (referred to in this Act as the 'Park') the land depicted on the map referred to in paragraph (1) as 'U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Lands' and revise the boundary of the Park accordingly; and

"(B) revise the boundary of the Park to include the land depicted on the map referred to in paragraph (1) as 'Appalachian NST' and exclude that land from the boundary of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail.

"(d) MAXIMUM NUMBER OF ACRES.—The number of acres of the Park shall not exceed 3,745.

"(e) MAPS.—The maps referred to in this section shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

"(f) ACQUIRED LAND.—Land or an interest in land acquired under this section shall become a part of the Park, subject to the laws (including regulations) applicable to the Park.

"(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this section."

SEC. 3. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

Sections 2 and 3 of the Act of June 30, 1944 (58 Stat. 646, chapter 328; 16 U.S.C. 450bb-1, 450bb-2), are amended by striking "Secretary of the Interior" each place it appears and inserting "Secretary".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) and the

gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the Senate bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the author of the bill.

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 1576, the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park Boundary Revision Act of 2004. Harpers Ferry is at the eastern-most portion of my congressional district and borders on Virginia and Maryland and has a very historic significance in our Nation's history.

This legislation represents cooperative efforts among local civic groups and the National Park Service to preserve an additional 1,240 acres of West Virginia's historic and pristine wilderness from development.

In addition, expanding the park will help make a significant investment in the local tourist economy by attracting an estimated 25,000 additional visitors to the eastern panhandle of West Virginia each year. New visitors mean more revenues for area businesses, and that keeps the local economy moving forward.

Expanding the park represents a reasonable and necessary investment in the future of this national treasure. This portion of West Virginia is undergoing tremendous growth; and placing these additional 1,200 acres under the governance of the National Park Service will preserve this area of West Virginia from further economic development, but more historic development.

Last summer I walked the Murphy Farm, an area in the proposed expansion. I was able to see a part of America rich in Civil War and civil rights history as well as breathtaking beauty. The passage of this legislation will allow the local community, the National Park Service, and various non-profit organizations to work together in partnership to preserve a historic part of our country's heritage, a section of America which is now West Virginia that Thomas Jefferson once remarked was "worth a trip across the Atlantic."

Madam Speaker, I can assure all of my colleagues that this legislation is worth their support, and I urge them to make a trip across Maryland to Harpers Ferry where they can visit a beautiful parcel of West Virginia, Harpers Ferry National Park.

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, S. 1576 is supported by the majority and the minority of the Committee on Resources and the administration. I urge adoption of this bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Ms. BORDALLO asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, at the outset I would note that the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL), Committee on Resources ranking member, had hoped to be here to manage this extremely important legislation, but has been delayed in returning from his congressional district. However, he joins with me in saluting Senator ROBERT C. BYRD for his tireless efforts on this vital legislation that will serve to enhance both the scenic beauty and historic resources of Harpers Ferry in the State of West Virginia. Madam Speaker, we have a statement from the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) which will be included in the RECORD.

Just as important as the substance of the bill is the process through which this proposal was developed. The sponsor of this legislation, Senator ROBERT C. BYRD, understood that units of the National Park Service work best when the local community feels connected to the park and is included in the decision-making process regarding the park's management. To accomplish this goal, Senator BYRD directed the National Park Service to conduct extensive public outreach to provide the local community information regarding the needs of the park and the impacts of any potential expansion. As a result, S. 1576 has near-universal support in the local communities near the park.

We commend Senator BYRD for his tireless efforts on behalf of Harpers Ferry, and we urge our colleagues to support S. 1576. And, Madam Speaker, I would be remiss if I did not mention, and I would like to commend her as well, the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) for her efforts on this legislation.

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, few places possess both the scenic beauty and historical significance of Harpers Ferry. Enactment of this legislation is critical because it will enhance both the scenic and historic resources of this unique place.

Like my home State of West Virginia itself, the pivotal location of Harpers Ferry has allowed it to serve as the backdrop for many of the most significant events in American history. As a result, some of the icons of American freedom and discovery—George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Merriweather Lewis, John Brown, "Stonewall" Jackson, Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglas—have walked the ground that now makes up this Park.

From the earliest settlement of this great Nation, through the founding of the railroad, John Brown's raid, the Civil War, reconstruction, the industrial revolution and integration, Harpers Ferry has been the stage on which many of the most significant chapters in American history have unfolded.

As for the scenic beauty of the place, none could describe it better than a visitor did in 1783 when he wrote that, "The passage of the Potomac through the Blue Ridge is perhaps one of the most stupendous scenes in nature." That awestruck visitor was, of course, Thomas Jefferson.

And during his distinguished career in the United States Senate, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park has had no better friend, no better protector, than Senator ROBERT C. BYRD. Back in 2000, Senator BYRD recognized the need for this Park expansion but was also well aware that units of the National Park System work best when the local community feels a sense of ownership and pride in the Park.

Senator BYRD directed the National Park Service to conduct extensive public outreach to provide the local community information regarding the needs of the Park and the impacts of any potential expansion. Once that process was complete, Senator BYRD had accomplished the near-impossible: Surveys show that 94 percent of the respondents support this legislation.

I share Senator BYRD's great love of history—West Virginia's history in particular. Harpers Ferry is an incredibly powerful tool for telling the great story of our State, our People and our Nation. These proposed additions will allow the Park to tell those stories even more powerfully and more completely.

I salute Senator BYRD for his tireless efforts on behalf of Harpers Ferry and West Virginia and urge my colleagues to support S. 1576.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 1576.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AMENDING THE ORGANIC ACT OF GUAM

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2400) to amend the Organic Act of Guam for the purposes of clarifying the local judicial structure of Guam.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2400

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. JUDICIAL STRUCTURE OF GUAM.

(a) JUDICIAL AUTHORITY; COURTS.—Section 22(a) of the Organic Act of Guam (48 U.S.C. 1424(a)) is amended to read as follows:

“(a)(1) The judicial authority of Guam shall be vested in a court established by Congress designated as the ‘District Court of Guam’, and a judicial branch of Guam which branch shall constitute a unified judicial system and include an appellate court designated as the ‘Supreme Court of Guam’, a trial court designated as the ‘Superior Court of Guam’, and such other lower local courts as may have been or shall hereafter be established by the laws of Guam.

“(2) The Supreme Court of Guam may, by rules of such court, create divisions of the Superior Court of Guam and other local courts of Guam.

“(3) The courts of record for Guam shall be the District Court of Guam, the Supreme Court of Guam, the Superior Court of Guam (except the Traffic and Small Claims divisions of the Superior Court of Guam) and any other local courts or divisions of local courts that the Supreme Court of Guam shall designate.”.

(b) JURISDICTION AND POWERS OF LOCAL COURTS.—Section 22A of the Organic Act of Guam (48 U.S.C. 1424-1) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 22A. (a) The Supreme Court of Guam shall be the highest court of the judicial branch of Guam (excluding the District Court of Guam) and shall—

“(1) have original jurisdiction over proceedings necessary to protect its appellate jurisdiction and supervisory authority and such other original jurisdiction as the laws of Guam may provide;

“(2) have jurisdiction to hear appeals over any cause in Guam decided by the Superior Court of Guam or other courts established under the laws of Guam;

“(3) have jurisdiction to issue all orders and writs in aid of its appellate, supervisory, and original jurisdiction, including those orders necessary for the supervision of the judicial branch of Guam;

“(4) have supervisory jurisdiction over the Superior Court of Guam and all other courts of the judicial branch of Guam;

“(5) hear and determine appeals by a panel of three of the justices of the Supreme Court of Guam and a concurrence of two such justices shall be necessary to a decision of the Supreme Court of Guam on the merits of an appeal;

“(6) make and promulgate rules governing the administration of the judiciary and the practice and procedure in the courts of the judicial branch of Guam, including procedures for the determination of an appeal en banc; and

“(7) govern attorney and judicial ethics and the practice of law in Guam, including admission to practice law and the conduct and discipline of persons admitted to practice law.

“(b) The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Guam—

“(1) shall preside over the Supreme Court unless disqualified or unable to act;

“(2) shall be the administrative head of, and have general supervisory power over, all departments, divisions, and other instrumentalities of the judicial branch of Guam; and

“(3) may issue such administrative orders on behalf of the Supreme Court of Guam as necessary for the efficient administration of the judicial branch of Guam.

“(c) The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Guam, or a justice sitting in place of such Chief Justice, may make any appropriate order with respect to—

“(1) an appeal prior to the hearing and termination of that appeal on the merits; or

“(2) dismissal of an appeal for lack of jurisdiction or failure to take or prosecute the appeal in accordance with applicable laws or rules of procedure.

“(d) Except as granted to the Supreme Court of Guam or otherwise provided by this

Act or any other Act of Congress, the Superior Court of Guam and all other local courts established by the laws of Guam shall have such original and appellate jurisdiction over all causes in Guam as the laws of Guam provide, except that such jurisdiction shall be subject to the exclusive or concurrent jurisdiction conferred on the District Court of Guam under section 22 of this Act.

“(e) The qualifications and duties of the justices and judges of the Supreme Court of Guam, the Superior Court of Guam, and all other local courts established by the laws of Guam shall be governed by the laws of Guam and the rules of such courts.”.

(c) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—(1) Section 22C(a) of the Organic Act of Guam (48 U.S.C. 1424-3(a)) is amended by inserting “which is known as the Supreme Court of Guam,” after “appellate court authorized by section 22A(a) of this Act.”.

(2) Section 22C(d) of the Organic Act of Guam (48 U.S.C. 1424-3(d)) is amended—

(A) by inserting “, which is known as the Supreme Court of Guam,” after “appellate court provided for in section 22A(a) of this Act”; and

(B) by striking “taken to the appellate court” and inserting “taken to such appellate court”.

SEC. 2. APPEALS TO UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT.

Section 22B of the Organic Act of Guam (48 U.S.C. 1424-2) is amended by striking “: *Provided, That*” and all that follows through the end and inserting a period.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) and the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE).

Mr. FLAKE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

I am pleased that this bill that I introduced with the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) is being considered on the floor today.

Madam Speaker, in what currently poses a potential threat to self-governance in the territory of Guam, the Guam legislature and the Guam executive branch currently have the power to abolish the Supreme Court of Guam, thus infringing on the judiciary's independence. This unintentional unequal balance of power was created by the 1984 Omnibus Territories Act, which authorized the creation of an appellate court on Guam. Unfortunately, this statute left the newly created court subordinate to the powers of the legislature and the executive.

The possibility of removing judges if rulings are unpopular or abolishing the

court and replacing it with one elected by the legislature would directly threaten the people of Guam's faith in their own courts and the democratic process. It is an unacceptable situation.

This legislation remedies the potential constitutional crisis by making the Supreme Court of Guam a court equal in stature with the other branches of government and providing the Guam judiciary the same protection as the other two branches have in their status under the Organic Act of Guam.

I had the unique opportunity to hear first hand many of Guam's political leaders express support for this legislation during our CODEL to the Pacific Islands earlier this year. I also have a constituent right around the corner from me who spends time on Guam, and he has educated me over the past couple of years to the potential problem here with this, and I am glad that we are moving through on it.

I want to thank the leadership of the gentleman from California (Chairman POMBO) for moving this ahead and for his leadership on all other areas and concerns of our territories. And I want to thank the gentlewoman from Guam also for working hard on this.

I urge adoption of this important legislation.

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) has introduced legislation that seeks to resolve issues of uncertainty surrounding the judicial branch and its powers in Guam. Her legislation, H.R. 2400, will amend the territory's Organic Act to clarify the structure of Guam's judicial branch. At this point I will allow the author to explain the bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Ms. BORDALLO asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, today we are considering legislation to amend the Organic Act of Guam to establish the Guam judiciary as the third co-equal and independent branch of the government of Guam. Passing H.R. 2400 is an important and necessary step in the exercising of Congress's plenary authority over the territories as granted in article IV of the United States Constitution. The bill is relatively straightforward and has the full support of all Guam's leaders.

I introduced H.R. 2400 last year at the request of the chief justice of the Supreme Court of Guam and the chairman of the 27th Guam legislature's Committee on the Judiciary. The bill would empower Guam's judiciary by clarifying the territory's local judicial structure. In essence, H.R. 2400 would amend the Organic Act of Guam to vest

the Supreme Court of Guam with authority over all inferior courts in the Guam judiciary, including the Superior Court of Guam and any such other lower courts as may be established by the laws of Guam.

A quick understanding of the history and evolution of the local judiciary in Guam reveals the need for this legislation. Guam's Organic Act, passed in August of 1950, provided for the organization of the territorial government. Therein, the judicial branch of the Government of Guam was created, which consisted of a district court of Guam having the jurisdiction of a district court of the United States and designated as Guam's appellate court to hear appeals from the local court.

In 1973, Guam's leaders made their first attempt at creating a Supreme Court of Guam, but that court's existence was short lived. The establishment of the first Supreme Court of Guam was ruled inorganic by the United States Supreme Court in the Territory of Guam v. Olsen. In rendering this decision, the United States Supreme Court held the Organic Act of Guam did not authorize the transfer of appellate jurisdiction from the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals to a locally established appellate court.

In 1984, in response to the United States Supreme Court decision, Congress amended the Organic Act of Guam through the passage of an Omnibus Territories Act, Public Law 98-454, and granted the Guam legislature the authority to establish a local appellate court. In 1993, the Guam legislature exercised its authority and created the Supreme Court of Guam through passage of local law.

However, in authorizing the creation of a Supreme Court of Guam, the Congress left the newly created court subordinate to Guam's other two branches of government. Guam's executive and legislative branches are established in the Organic Act of Guam, which in lieu of an adopted constitution serves to provide the framework and powers for the territory's executive and legislative branches.

□ 1700

As the current judicial structure is established in Guam law, it can be subject to manipulations based upon shifts in control of Guam's executive and legislative branches. Currently, the Guam legislature and the Guam executive branch have the power to abolish the Supreme Court of Guam, and, as such, may infringe upon the judiciary's independence.

H.R. 2400 would remedy this situation by making the Supreme Court of Guam an "Organic" court equal in stature to the other branches of government and providing the Guam judiciary the same protection as the other branches have in their status under the Organic Act of Guam. Just as the Governor cannot disband the legislature and the legislature cannot abolish the executive, so too should the judiciary be free from

the threat of abolishment by the legislative or executive branches if their judicial decisions are found to be unpopular at any given point in time.

Madam Speaker, judicial independence cannot and should not be taken for granted. As Guam's self-governance continues to advance, the legal rights of the people of Guam should not be left to the discretion of the political branches. As Alexander Hamilton wrote in *The Federalist* No. 78, "There is no liberty if the power of judging be not separated from the legislative and the executive powers."

An independent judiciary is in its purest form accountable only to the rule of law, not other political actors. H.R. 2400 seeks to solidify such an independent judicial structure for the government of Guam in the Organic Act in the highest traditions of American federalism.

The version of the legislation we are considering today, Madam Speaker, is in the same form as reported out by the Committee on Resources in the 107th Congress. This bill has evolved since it was first introduced in the 105th Congress by my predecessor, former Congressman Robert Underwood, as the Guam Judicial Empowerment Act, and in its current form reflects improvements suggested by the U.S. District Court of Guam and the Committee on Resources.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill to amend the Organic Act of Guam in recognition of the importance of having a strong judiciary and in furtherance of Guam's efforts to achieve the greatest amount of self-governance possible.

Madam Speaker, I include for the RECORD a letter from the Governor of Guam, the Honorable Felix P. Camacho, in support of establishing Guam's judicial branch in the Organic Act of Guam; a resolution from the 27th Guam Legislature urging passage of H.R. 2400; and a resolution in support of the bill from the Judicial Council of Guam.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR OF GUAM,
Hagåtña, Guam, May 7, 2004.
Hon. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO,
Congresswoman, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADELEINE: This letter is written in reference to H.R. 2400, a bill to amend the Organic Act of Guam for the purposes of clarifying the local judicial structure of Guam.

I stated in previous testimony in reference to a similar bill introduced by your predecessor in the 107th Congress, "I certainly support the independence of all branches of government, inclusive of the judicial branch of Guam." As the Chief Executive of our Territory, I certainly appreciate our tri-partite form of government which was crafted by the founders of our great nation and unanimously adopted by the states of our union. I fully recognize that the effectiveness of our system of government, both on the federal and local level, rests in checks and balances. To this end, I recognize that the judicial branch of our Territory, like our executive and legislative branches, must be "constitutionally" established or in our case, have an "Organic" existence with similar powers to

govern, reorganize, manage and account for its branch with judicial independence founded under our U.S. Constitution. To the extent H.R. 2400 furthers this principle, I am supportive of your efforts and the assistance of your colleagues.

My personal preference is for our tri-partite structure of government to be established in a Guam Constitution. Further, the specifics of the internal operation of our judicial branch should be established locally. However, I am cognizant that since I submitted my previous testimony to Congress on this issue, local law affecting the Guam judiciary has changed. In addition, until Guam adopts its own constitution, the Organic Act functions as Guam's de facto constitution. For these reasons, I support your efforts to establish Guam's judicial branch in our Organic Act.

With Warm Personal Regards,
FELIX P. CAMACHO,
Governor of Guam.

I MINA'BENTE SIETE NA LIHESLATURAN
GUAHAN

2004 (SECOND) Regular Session—Resolution
No. 139 (LS)

As amended on the Floor.

Introduced by: v.c. pangelinan; F.R. Cunliffe; R. Klitzkie; T.R. Muña Barnes; F.B. Aguon, Jr.; J.M.S. Brown; C. Fernandez; Mark Forbes; L.F. Kasperbauer; L.A. Leon Guerrero; J.A. Lujan; J.M. Quinata; R.J. Respicio; Toni Sanford; Ray Tenorio.

Relative to amending the Organic Act of Guam for the purpose of clarifying the local judicial structure of Guam.

Be it resolved by I Mina'Bente Siete na Liheslaturan Guahan:

Whereas, in our island's quest to achieve greater self-governance, the United States Congress amended the Organic Act of Guam in 1984 authorizing the Guam Legislature to reorganize the island Judiciary and establish an appellate court for island residents; and

Whereas, from 1984 to 1992, bi-partisan legislators, executive and judicial branch officials, legal practitioners and the community-at-large contributed to preparing draft legislation which culminated in the passage of Public Law 21-147, the "Frank G. Lujan Memorial Act" that reorganized the island's Judicial Branch, creating the Supreme Court of Guam as the island's highest appellate court and establishing it as the administrative head of the island Judiciary; and

Whereas, since 1996 when the Supreme Court of Guam was first empanelled in accordance with the provisions of Federal and local law, the island's high court and the Judiciary has been subjected to frequent legislative changes eroding the independence of the Guam Judiciary; and

Whereas, in reaffirming the original intent of local and Federal lawmakers who sought to create a supreme Court of Guam with the Supreme Court as the head of the island Judiciary, the Twenty-Seventh Guam Legislature, I Miná Bente Siete Na Liheslaturan Guahan, passed Public Law 27-31, "An Act to Reorganize the Judiciary as the Third Co-Equal and Independent Branch of the Government of Guam . . ." in October 2003; and

Whereas, Public Law 27-31 and similar local legislation can be amended or repealed at any time, thus further threatening the independence of the Guam Judiciary; and

Whereas, local legislators, officials, and resident alike believe that absent a Guam Constitution, an amendment to the Organic Act is needed to firmly establish the Judicial Branch of Guam, with the Supreme Court of Guam at its head, as a separate, co-equal and independent branch within the government of Guam; and

Whereas, H.R. 521 was introduced in the 107th Congress, heard by the House Committee on Resources and favorably reported

and recommended to the House of Representatives by unanimous consent; and

Whereas, the 107th Congress soon thereafter expired with no further action on the measure; and

Whereas, H.R. 2400, the successor bill to H.R. 521 was introduced by Guam's Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo; and

Whereas, H.R. 2400 seeks to ensure through an amendment to the Organic Act, the independence of the Guam judiciary and to maintain the judicial branch as a separate and co-equal branch of government, now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That I Miná Bente Siete Na Liheslaturan Guåhan does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, respectfully request the United States Congress to expeditiously and favorably pass H.R. 2400 to amend the Organic Act recognizing the Supreme Court of Guam as the highest court of Guam and to firmly establish the Judicial Branch as a separate, co-equal branch within the government of Guam; and be it further

Resolved, That the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the Honorable Madeleine Z. Bordallo, Member of Congress, U.S. House of Representatives; to the Honorable Richard Pombo, Chairman, House Resources Committee; to the Honorable Pete Domenici, Chairman, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee; to Attorney Joaquin C. Arriola, Jr., President of the Guam Bar Association; to the Honorable F. Philip Carbullido, Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Guam; and to the Honorable Felix P. Camacho, I Magálahan Guåhan.

Duly and regularly adopted by I Miná Bente Siete na Liheslaturan Guåhan on the 23rd day of April, 2004.

vincente (ben) c. pangelinan, Speaker.
TINA ROSE MUNA BARNES, Senator and Legislative Secretary.

JUDICIAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO. JC04-008
RELATIVE TO SUPPORTING AN AMENDMENT TO THE ORGANIC ACT OF GUAM TO CLARIFY THE LOCAL JUDICIAL STRUCTURE OF GUAM

Whereas, the Organic Act of Guam as it was originally drafted, did not authorize the establishment of a local appellate court;

Whereas, in 1977 the Guam Legislature's first attempt to create a Supreme Court of Guam was struck down by the United States Supreme Court because the Organic Act did not so authorize the Legislature;

Whereas, in 1984, the United States Congress amended the Organic Act of Guam to authorize the Guam Legislature to create a local appellate court;

Whereas, bi-partisan legislators, executive and judicial branch officials, legal practitioners and the community-at-large worked together to create Public Law 21-147, the Frank G. Lujan Memorial Court Reorganization Act of 1992, which re-organized the Judiciary, created the Supreme Court of Guam as the island's highest appellate court and established it as the administrative head of the Judicial Branch;

Whereas, in 1996 the Supreme Court of Guam was empaneled in accordance with the provisions of the Frank G. Lujan Memorial Act;

Whereas, the Supreme Court of Guam has since been subjected to frequent legislative changes, stripping it of administrative authority over the Judicial Branch thereby eroding the independence of the Guam Judiciary and compromising the traditional tripartite democratic system of government;

Whereas, in reaffirming the original intent of local and federal lawmakers who sought to create a Supreme Court of Guam with the Supreme Court as the head of the island Judiciary, the Twenty-Seventh Guam Legislature passed Public Law 27-31 "An Act to Reorganize the Judiciary as the Third Co-Equal and Independent Branch of the Government of Guam . . ." in October 2003;

Whereas, since November of 2003, the Supreme Court of Guam has taken its rightful role as the head of the Judicial Branch;

Whereas, since November of 2003, the newly composed Judicial Council has aggressively striven to unify the judiciary and improve the administration of justice in Guam;

Whereas, Public Law 27-31 and similar local legislation can be amended or repealed at any time, thus further threatening the independence of the Guam Judiciary;

Whereas, local legislators, officials and residents alike believe that, absent a Guam constitution, an amendment to the Organic Act is needed to firmly establish the Judicial Branch of Guam, with the Supreme Court of Guam at its head, as a separate, co-equal and independent branch within the Government of Guam;

Whereas, on April 23, 2004 the Twenty-Seventh Guam Legislature, with near unanimous bi-partisan support, passed a resolution supporting and requesting the United States Congress to amend the Organic Act of Guam to establish the Supreme Court as the highest court of Guam and establish the judiciary as a separate and co-equal branch of government;

Whereas, H.R. 2400, amending the Organic Act of Guam to establish the Supreme Court as the highest court in Guam to protect the independence of the Guam judiciary and to maintain the Judicial Branch as a separate and co-equal branch of government, was introduced by Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo.

Now, therefore be it resolved, that the Judicial Council of Guam hereby respectfully requests the United States Congress to expeditiously and favorably pass H.R. 2400 to amend the Organic Act recognizing the Supreme Court of Guam as the highest court of Guam and to firmly establish the Judicial Branch as a separate, co-equal branch within the government of Guam; and

Be it further resolved, that the Judicial Council of Guam hereby respectfully requests the support of the Governor and the continued support of the Legislature for the passage of H.R. 2400; and

Be it further resolved, that copies of this Resolution be provided to the Honorable Madeleine Z. Bordallo, member of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Honorable Richard Pombo, Chairman, House Resources Committee, the Honorable Pete Domenici, Chairman, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Mr. Joaquin C. Arriola, Jr., President of the Guam Bar Association, the Honorable Felix P. Camacho, the Governor of Guam and the Honorable Vicente C. Pangelinan, Speaker of the Guam Legislature

Duly adopted this 30th day of April, 2004 at a duly noticed meeting of the Judicial Council of Guam.

Chief Justice F. Philip Carbullido, Charman, Date: May 6, 2004.

Attest:
Julie M. Lujan-Torres, Secretary, Date: May 6, 2004.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues who have cosponsored this legislation to establish an independent and coequal judiciary in Guam, including my good friend, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE), who has taken an active interest in this legislation and has traveled to Guam; the gentleman from Montana (Mr. REHBERG); the gentleman from California (Mr. GALLEGLY), the former chairman of the Subcommittee on Insular Affairs; the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE); the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA); the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN); and the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. ACEVEDO-VILA).

I appreciate their support in this effort, as well as the support of the gentleman from California (Chairman POMBO), the chairman of the Committee on Resources, who has done a great deal to see that this legislation was put forward, and the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL), our ranking member. Their leadership in shepherding H.R. 2400 to this point in the process is also appreciated, and I thank them for their support as well.

Madam Speaker, I yield I urge unanimous passage of this bill.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I urge adoption of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BLACKBURN). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2400.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF PROGRAMS UNDER SMALL BUSINESS ACT AND SMALL BUSINESS INVESTMENT ACT OF 1958

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5008) to provide an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 through September 30, 2004, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 5008

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. ADDITIONAL TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF PROGRAMS UNDER SMALL BUSINESS ACT AND SMALL BUSINESS INVESTMENT ACT OF 1958.

The authorization for any program, authority, or provision, including any pilot program, that was extended through June 4, 2004, by section 1 of Public Law 108-217 is further extended through September 30, 2004, under the same terms and conditions.

SEC. 2. TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.

Section 2 of Public Law 108-205 is amended by striking "October 1, 2003" and inserting "March 15, 2004". The amendment made by the preceding sentence shall take effect as if included in the enactment of the section to which it relates.

SEC. 3. COMPENSATION OF AGENTS.

Section 5 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 634) is amended—

(1) in subsection (g)(4), by adding at the end the following:

“(C) The Administration may contract with an agent to carry out, on behalf of the Administration, the assessment and collection of the annual fee established under section 7(a)(23). The agent may receive, as compensation for services, any interest earned

on the fee while in the control of the agent before the time at which the agent is contractually required to remit the fee to the Administration.”; and

(2) in subsection (h)—

(A) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3); and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

“(2) The agent described in paragraph (1)(B) may be compensated through any of the fees assessed under this section and any interest earned on any funds collected by the agent while such funds are in the control of the agent and before the time at which the agent is contractually required to transfer such funds to the Administration or to the holders of the trust certificates, as appropriate.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FLAKE). Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) and the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 5008.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from West Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this bill extends until September 30 the programs of the Small Business Administration not covered by an appropriation, including the Preferred Surety Bond Program, SBA's Private Sector Cosponsorship Authority, the Small Disadvantaged Business Procurement Assistance Program, the Small Business Development Center Drug-Free Workplace Assistance Grants Program and the Very Small Business Concerns Program.

Last June, the House acted responsibly by passing H.R. 4478 to extend the programs of the SBA, but the other body failed to act. These programs have been in limbo since June 4, and it is important that they are extended while we continue to work on an SBA reauthorization bill.

In addition, H.R. 5008 would help many existing Women's Business Centers keep their doors open. Passage of H.R. 5008 would free up the remaining \$4 million already appropriated for the program this year to provide at a minimum approximately \$70,000 to each Women's Business Center and sustainability status.

Finally, H.R. 5008 corrects a legal problem regarding how the SBA pays fiscal transfer agents, who provide a vital role in the secondary market. For nearly 10 years, the SBA's fiscal transfer agent has been paid by a float on interest on the pools of securitized 7(a) guaranteed loans. Recently there has been some confusion as to whether or not this practice violates the Anti-De-

ficiency Act. The SBA has proposed a fix to this problem, and that solution is incorporated in section 3 of H.R. 5008, which essentially codifies the existing practice.

Passage of this legislation is needed in order to prevent the crippling of the SBA's 7(a) loan program, because without the liquidity of a secondary market banks will not make as many 7(a) loans as in the past.

This bipartisan bill has the support of the ranking minority member, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ), and it has the support of the Bush administration. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5008.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Ms. VELÁZQUEZ asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, we are here today because Congress has failed to complete its work. Over 1 year ago, the Committee on Small Business unanimously reported out a bipartisan reauthorization bill. As a result of the failure to move this legislation, the authorization for the SBA expired last year and we are now forced to pass our fourth extension. Shamefully, the agency has been operating for 3 months without any authorization.

It is clear that the Nation's job creators, small businesses, are struggling. The United States has lost 1.7 million jobs since 2001, and we are continuing to see growth rates that only keep up with inflation. American manufacturers are being hit hardest, with 2.7 million jobs lost during that period and 11,000 lost in June alone. This is clearly not the picture of an economy that is getting back on its feet.

Last week, the House Committee on Small Business Democrats released a quarterly small business index showing that business conditions are at 7-year lows. Skyrocketing health care and energy costs and exploding Federal budget deficits are but a few of the barriers small firms face in achieving the growth our economy needs so badly.

At a time when we should be providing our Nation's entrepreneurs a leg up, this administration and the Republican Congress has continuously failed to provide the assistance they need by blocking passage of the SBA reauthorization.

The bipartisan reauthorization bill will provide the most comprehensive overhaul of the SBA in over a decade. It will broaden or modernize the SBA loan programs so firms can access the capital they need. At a time when the Federal Government failed to meet the small business contracting goals for the fourth consecutive year, the Republican leadership is blocking this bill that will expand procurement opportunities for small companies.

The legislation ensures small firms are given a fair chance to break into

the Federal marketplace. By doing so, we provide the Federal Government a quality service at a good price. This is not just good for small businesses, it is good for the American taxpayer. Additionally, the likelihood of success for small business is nearly doubled when they have access to technical assistance.

Passage of the reauthorization bill will offer the greatest expansion of entrepreneurial assistance programs in decades.

Even more concerning is the possibility that our failure to act will actually worsen the business environment for small businesses. Small businesses are faced with a possible doubling of fees on SBA loans at the end of this month. Without immediate action, the current structure will lapse, leaving banks and entrepreneurs in a worse situation than when the program was shut down last year.

Although the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman MANZULLO), who cannot be here today, has tried repeatedly to bring this bill up for consideration, the Republican House leadership and the administration have blocked it.

In today's economic climate, small businesses are more important than ever. We need to ensure that they have all the tools for success, as they are facing numerous obstacles. It is unfortunate that we are here today passing an extension, rather than celebrating the passage of an SBA reauthorization.

These issues should not be subject to partisan politics. When our small businesses need us the most, our committee was able to work in a bipartisan manner to produce this legislation. We now ask the Republican leadership to recognize these efforts and pass the reauthorization bill that will get small businesses back creating jobs.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO).

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5008, and I would like to take this time to thank the chairman of the Committee on Small Business, the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman MANZULLO), and the ranking member, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ), for their continued leadership in crafting a long-term reauthorization of the Small Business Administration.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5008 will provide temporary reauthorization of the Small Business Administration. While I support H.R. 5008, I do share the ranking member's frustration that we still have not had the opportunity to vote to pass a permanent reauthorization of the Small Business Administration, and consequently this raises concerns about the future of the 7(a) loan guarantee program, which is often the only source of long-term financing on reasonable terms for small businesses, particularly those in poor, rural and underserved areas.

While H.R. 5008 will maintain the current authority for the 7(a) program,

small business owners will see a doubling of administration fees.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Small Business approved on a unanimous, bipartisan basis a permanent Small Business Administration reauthorization, H.R. 2802. The committee marked up this bill on July 21, 2003. H.R. 2802 would revise the 7(a) fee calculation for small businesses, avoiding the increase that they will otherwise face under the current authority.

□ 1715

These small firms represent the future of our economy, Mr. Speaker, as they account for 75 percent of all new jobs created in the United States.

Therefore, I hope that we can work together to resolve any outstanding issues with respect to this bill and move this important legislation to the floor before we recess. In the meantime, I respectfully urge my colleagues to vote today in favor of the temporary reauthorization.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

While reauthorization is extremely important, I think it would behoove us at this time to really think about all of the things that have been done and are in the process of being done for small businesses here and across America.

Twenty-five million small business owners will receive tax relief, totaling \$75 billion. That is real savings. The rate reductions in the tax benefit plan is more than 90 percent small business. We also have raised the small business expensing limit from \$25,000 to \$100,000, and I can tell my colleagues in my home State of West Virginia, small businesses are beginning to do and beginning to feel the growth effects of being able to hire another person, being able to buy that extra piece of equipment as a result of the tax incentives.

Regulation, which is another burdensome thing on small business, this administration has slowed the growth of burdensome new rules by 75 percent. Also, small businesses saved \$7 billion last year in regulatory costs, and that is significant.

We have worked a lot to try to incent and grow our small businesses, and there is always more, much more, that can be done. But in terms of government procurement, for the first time in many years, the Federal Government exceeded its small business goal by providing a record \$65.5 billion in prime contracts to small businesses. That is a significant increase over past years.

So, in conclusion, I would like to say that reauthorization of SBA is exceedingly important to small business, and what we are doing here today in extending the authorization is extremely important. But much has been done and much needs to still continue to be done to help small business, which is the backbone of our American economy.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to set the record straight regarding the tax cut that the President submitted to Congress and that Congress passed.

The tax cuts are not helping small businesses. The President's tax cuts have provided little relief for small businesses. In fact, under the latest tax cut, over half of small businesses receive less than \$500, despite a cost of \$350 billion. And, while the President talks about how the top tax rate cut helps small businesses, only 1 percent of small business owners benefit from the reduction in the top tax rate. In fact, out of the 28 million small businesses, only 180,000 benefited from the top tax rate, according to the figures presented to us by the Department of the Treasury. Those are your own numbers. Less than 5 percent of the latest 2003 Jobs and Growth package was in the form of targeted tax relief for small businesses.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN).

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me this time.

Although I would rather be here to support the SBA reauthorization, I rise today in support of H.R. 5008, which would simply, once again, extend the important programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5008 marks the fourth extension of the SBA programs. The House Committee on Small Business passed the extension on the SBA programs with bipartisan support a year ago. I want to take this opportunity to commend the leadership of our ranking member, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ), and our chairman for their strong leadership and their bipartisanship in working on that reauthorization.

Yet, the House leadership has failed to bring this bill to the floor for a vote. Why?

The leadership in this and the other body give a lot of lip service to small business. We constantly tout them as the backbone and the engines of our economy. Yet, on legislation as critical to their and, thus, our Nation's well-being as the reauthorization of programs on which they depend, this Congress has, once again, failed to act.

It is getting late in the year. Our small businesses cannot wait. They need security now. They need the assurance that the programs they will need to continue will be there now. They need to know what to expect, and we need to stop these stop-gap measures and give them that security and that assurance.

I am particularly concerned because I have heard Members ask, Why should we continue to fund agencies and programs that have not been reauthorized?

Mr. Speaker, actions speak louder than words. Failure to act on this legislation is sending the message that our Nation's small businesses are not a priority for this administration. But they are very important to both the Democrats and the Republicans on the committee.

It is also of great concern that this bill fails to address the current problem of high fees associated with the 7(a) program, the flagship lending program for the Small Business Administration. If the leadership fails to bring the reauthorization to a vote by the end of this month, the 7(a) lending program will once again be in jeopardy.

It is a good thing that, in our districts, the agencies charged with supporting small businesses are doing what they need to do. On that positive note, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and congratulate the University of the Virgin Islands Small Business Development Center, the university president, Dr. Laverne Ragster, and the SBDC director, Mr. Warren Bush, for successfully hosting its Small Business Innovation Research Program and Small Business Technology Transfer Program Orientation Conference last week.

Finally, on a bill previously before this body today, I want to take this opportunity to also join my colleagues in supporting House Resolution 717 and belatedly extend, on behalf of all of my constituents in the U.S. Virgin Islands, our best wishes to President Bill Clinton on his 58th birthday, as well as to wish him a continued speedy recovery, many, many more birthdays and good health and happiness, and God's richest blessings on him and his family.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. TIERNEY).

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from New York, both for yielding me this time and for bringing this matter to the floor today.

It is obviously essential that we finally take some action on this legislation. We need to extend critical funding to women's business centers across the United States. In particular, the Center for Women and Enterprise in Boston serves many of the constituents in my district and throughout the State of Massachusetts. It has been long overdue, and many of these centers have already suffered because of Congress's inaction.

It is a bit disturbing to know that it has been 10 months since the Small Business Administration authorization bill has expired. And it continues to linger, and we need the majority to come forward and the White House to come forward at this point in time and bring it and put it on the agenda. Everybody has great rhetoric about how important small businesses are to our country, to our districts and to the economy. But now it is time to put that rhetoric into action and make sure we move on this bill.

We do not have to tell people or remind them about how this economy is suffering: almost 2 million jobs lost in the last several years and still not anywhere near back to where we were in January of 2001.

We know what a generator of jobs, what a booster of the economy small businesses can be, and we also know how important the Small Business Administration is in providing capital for these businesses. So if we could do the bill that is before us today but also bring forward the Small Business Administration reauthorization, we could deal with that issue of capital.

At a time when the economy is suffering as much as it is, many businesses are starting to fail. They need that capital so that they can retool. Some need it to grow. And we need some new businesses to fill in where others have left. That cannot happen without this bill coming forward.

The so-called 7(a) loans are by far the most critical capital vehicles that we have for small businesses: \$11 billion in loans to small businesses every year. That aspect has to be assured to businesses. If we do nothing by the end of this month, fees for that will double, freezing out many businesses from the opportunity to get access to this money so that they can expand or they can start up.

Time after time, we hear on the floor and we hear in people's individual districts how much they feel for small business and how certain they are that small businesses add to the benefit of our country.

Mr. Speaker, we need to put our money where our mouth is. We need this measure to be brought forward. I support today's bill because it does a good thing, particularly with respect to the women's business centers across the country, but realize that we have to do more and move the Small Business Administration reauthorization forward.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, there is no disagreement that we should pass this extension. It is, though, embarrassing that it has come to this. We expect small businesses to meet their taxes, comply with Federal regulations and pay their employees on time. But when it comes to Congress, we are not held accountable for our failure to meet their needs.

At a time when our economy is struggling, at a time when small businesses are struggling, Congress should be holding up its end of the deal. Passing the Small Business Administration Reauthorization Act must be a priority.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to thank the gentlewoman from New York (Ms.

VELÁZQUEZ) for not only her advocacy for this bill before us today, but for her advocacy for small business. She is one of the staunchest cheerleaders for small businesses across this Nation, and I appreciate her service and her ability to get things done.

I thank our chairman, the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman MANZULLO), who is not with us today, to thank him also for his small business advocacy. It is good to know that we have a bipartisan opinion on this bill. I look forward to its passage, and I look forward to all of us working together to see that small business not only grows but thrives under this bill and also under further legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FLAKE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5008.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 27 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WALDEN of Oregon) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

House Concurrent Resolution 363, by the yeas and nays;

House Resolution 667, by the yeas and nays; and

House Resolution 760, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. The second and third vote in this series will be 5-minute votes.

EXPRESSING GRAVE CONCERN OF CONGRESS REGARDING CONTINUING GROSS VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES OF SYRIAN PEOPLE BY GOVERNMENT OF SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 363, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 363, as amended, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 342, nays 0, answered "present" 1, not voting 90, as follows:

[Roll No. 441]

YEAS—342

Abercrombie	Costello	Granger
Aderholt	Cox	Graves
Akin	Cramer	Green (TX)
Alexander	Crane	Green (WI)
Allen	Crenshaw	Greenwood
Andrews	Cubin	Gutknecht
Baca	Culberson	Hall
Bachus	Cummings	Harman
Baird	Cunningham	Harris
Baldwin	Davis (AL)	Hart
Barrett (SC)	Davis (CA)	Hastings (WA)
Bartlett (MD)	Davis (FL)	Hayes
Barton (TX)	Davis (IL)	Hayworth
Bass	Davis (TN)	Hefley
Becerra	Davis, Jo Ann	Hensarling
Bell	Davis, Tom	Herseth
Berkley	Deal (GA)	Hill
Berman	DeFazio	Hinojosa
Berry	DeGette	Hobson
Billirakis	Delahunt	Holden
Bishop (GA)	DeLauro	Holt
Bishop (NY)	DeLay	Honda
Blackburn	Deutsch	Hooley (OR)
Blumenauer	Diaz-Balart, L.	Hostettler
Blunt	Diaz-Balart, M.	Hoyer
Boehner	Dicks	Hulshof
Bonilla	Dingell	Hunter
Bonner	Doggett	Hyde
Bono	Dooley (CA)	Israel
Boswell	Doolittle	Issa
Boucher	Doyle	Istook
Boyd	Dreier	Jackson (IL)
Bradley (NH)	Duncan	Jackson-Lee
Brady (PA)	Dunn	(TX)
Brady (TX)	Edwards	Jefferson
Brown (SC)	Ehlers	Jenkins
Brown, Corrine	Emanuel	John
Brown-Waite,	Eshoo	Johnson (CT)
Ginny	Etheridge	Johnson (IL)
Burgess	Farr	Johnson, Sam
Burns	Fattah	Jones (NC)
Burton (IN)	Feeney	Jones (OH)
Butterfield	Ferguson	Kanjorski
Buyer	Filner	Keller
Calvert	Flake	Kelly
Camp	Foley	Kennedy (MN)
Cantor	Forbes	Kildee
Capito	Ford	Kilpatrick
Capps	Fossella	Kind
Cardin	Frank (MA)	King (IA)
Cardoza	Franks (AZ)	King (NY)
Carson (IN)	Frelinghuysen	Kingston
Case	Galleghy	Kirk
Castle	Garrett (NJ)	Kline
Chabot	Gibbons	Knollenberg
Chandler	Gilchrest	Kolbe
Chocoma	Gillmor	LaHood
Clyburn	Gingrey	Lampson
Coble	Gonzalez	Lantos
Cole	Goode	Larsen (WA)
Collins	Goodlatte	Larson (CT)
Cooper	Gordon	Latham

Leach	Oliver	Sherman
Lee	Ortiz	Sherwood
Levin	Osborne	Shimkus
Lewis (CA)	Ose	Shuster
Lewis (GA)	Otter	Simmons
Lewis (KY)	Oxley	Skeltton
Linder	Pallone	Smith (NJ)
LoBiondo	Pastor	Smith (TX)
Lofgren	Payne	Snyder
Lowey	Pearce	Solis
Lucas (OK)	Pelosi	Souder
Maloney	Pence	Spratt
Manzullo	Peterson (MN)	Stearns
Marshall	Petri	Stenholm
Matheson	Pickering	Strickland
McCarthy (MO)	Pitts	Stupak
McCarthy (NY)	Platts	Sullivan
McCollum	Pombo	Tancredo
McCotter	Pomeroy	Tanner
McCrery	Porter	Tauscher
McDermott	Portman	Terry
McHugh	Price (NC)	Thomas
McIntyre	Putnam	Thompson (CA)
McNulty	Radanovich	Thornberry
Meehan	Rahall	Tiahrt
Meek (FL)	Ramstad	Tiberi
Meeks (NY)	Rehberg	Tierney
Menendez	Renzi	Turner (OH)
Mica	Reyes	Udall (CO)
Michaud	Reynolds	Upton
Millender-	Rodriguez	Van Hollen
McDonald	Rogers (AL)	Velázquez
Miller (FL)	Rohrabacher	Visclosky
Miller (MI)	Ros-Lehtinen	Walden (OR)
Miller (NC)	Ross	Walsh
Miller, Gary	Rothman	Wamp
Miller, George	Roybal-Allard	Watson
Mollohan	Royce	Watt
Moore	Ruppersberger	Weldon (FL)
Moran (KS)	Rush	Weldon (PA)
Moran (VA)	Ryan (OH)	Weller
Murphy	Ryan (WI)	Wexler
Musgrave	Ryun (KS)	Whitfield
Myrick	Sánchez, Linda	Wicker
Nadler	T.	Wilson (NM)
Napolitano	Sanchez, Loretta	Wilson (SC)
Neugebauer	Schiff	Wolf
Ney	Scott (GA)	Woolsey
Northup	Scott (VA)	Wu
Norwood	Sensenbrenner	Wynn
Nunes	Sessions	Young (AK)
Nussle	Shadegg	Young (FL)
Oberstar	Shaw	
Obey	Shays	

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—1

Waters

NOT VOTING—90

Ackerman	Herger	Pryce (OH)
Baker	Hinchey	Quinn
Ballenger	Hoeffel	Rangel
Beauprez	Hoekstra	Regula
Biggert	Houghton	Rogers (KY)
Bishop (UT)	Inlee	Rogers (MI)
Boehlert	Isakson	Sabo
Boozman	Johnson, E. B.	Sanders
Brown (OH)	Kaptur	Sandlin
Burr	Kennedy (RI)	Saxton
Cannon	Klecza	Schakowsky
Capuano	Kucinich	Schrock
Carson (OK)	Langevin	Serrano
Carter	LaTourette	Simpson
Clay	Lipinski	Slaughter
Conyers	Lucas (KY)	Smith (MI)
Crowley	Lynch	Smith (WA)
DeMint	Majette	Stark
Emerson	Markey	Sweeney
Engel	Matsui	Tauzin
English	McGovern	Taylor (MS)
Evans	McInnis	Taylor (NC)
Everett	McKeon	Thompson (MS)
Frost	Murtha	Toomey
Gephardt	Neal (MA)	Towns
Gerlach	Nethercutt	Turner (TX)
Goss	Owens	Udall (NM)
Grijalva	Pascarell	Vitter
Gutierrez	Paul	Waxman
Hastings (FL)	Peterson (PA)	Weiner

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WALDEN of Oregon) (during the vote). Members are advised there are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1857

Mr. TIERNEY changed his vote from "nay" to "yea."

So (two-thirds of those present having voted in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The title of the concurrent resolution was amended so as to read: "Concurrent resolution expressing the grave concern of Congress regarding the continuing gross violations of human rights and civil liberties of the Syrian and Lebanese people by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, and notwithstanding intervening debate, the next two electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

There was no objection.

IN HONOR OF WILLIAM D. FORD

(Mr. DINGELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise with great sadness this evening to announce the death of our dear friend and former colleague, Congressman William D. Ford. He died on August 14.

Congressman Ford spent 3 decades serving the Nation in this institution. He was a great champion for the causes that concerned so many Americans, from ensuring that each child had a quality education to become successful citizens, to making sure that our workplaces were safer.

His father's death in a factory accident led to a lifelong commitment to protect the health and safety of employees in the workplace. Congressman Ford worked every day in his life to be the champion of the working poor and the middle class.

Bill Ford was a member of the House from 1965 to 1995, representing Michigan's 15th and 13th congressional districts. During his 30-year-and-more tenure, he served as chairman of the House Committee on the Post Office and Civil Service, as well as the chairman of the Committee on Education and Labor.

He was the oldest son of immigrant Spanish parents and the first member of his family to attend college. He served his Nation in the United States Navy. He attended the University of Denver on the GI Bill.

He was the author of many important pieces of legislation to benefit ordinary, working Americans.

Prior to serving in the Congress, he was a delegate to the Michigan Constitutional Convention and a member

of the Michigan State Senate. He served as city attorney in a number of communities in Michigan.

He is survived by his three children, William D. Ford, Jr.; Margaret Van Fleet Ford; and John Ford; three grandchildren; a sister, Janet Ford; and a brother, Robert Ford.

Our Nation is a better place because of his work and dedication. His life left a mark on this Nation. His death is a tremendous loss, and those of my colleagues who knew him understand the sorrow that I feel tonight, as I am sure they feel their own.

A memorial service will be held tomorrow in Washington.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR FREEDOM IN HONG KONG

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 667.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 667, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 345, nays 0, answered "present" 1, not voting 87, as follows:

[Roll No. 442]

YEAS—345

Abercrombie	Cantor	Doyle
Aderholt	Capito	Dreier
Akin	Capps	Duncan
Alexander	Cardin	Dunn
Allen	Cardoza	Edwards
Andrews	Carson (IN)	Ehlers
Baca	Case	Emanuel
Bachus	Castle	Eshoo
Baird	Chabot	Etheridge
Baldwin	Chandler	Farr
Barrett (SC)	Chocola	Fattah
Bartlett (MD)	Clyburn	Feeney
Barton (TX)	Coble	Ferguson
Bass	Cole	Filner
Becerra	Collins	Flake
Bell	Cooper	Foley
Berkley	Costello	Forbes
Berman	Cox	Ford
Berry	Cramer	Fossella
Bilirakis	Crane	Frank (MA)
Bishop (GA)	Crenshaw	Franks (AZ)
Bishop (NY)	Cubin	Frelinghuysen
Blackburn	Culberson	Gallegly
Blumenauer	Cummings	Garrett (NJ)
Blunt	Cunningham	Gibbons
Boehner	Davis (AL)	Gilchrest
Bonilla	Davis (CA)	Gillmor
Bonner	Davis (FL)	Gingrey
Bono	Davis (IL)	Gonzalez
Boswell	Davis (TN)	Goode
Boucher	Davis, Jo Ann	Goodlatte
Boyd	Davis, Tom	Gordon
Bradley (NH)	Deal (GA)	Granger
Brady (PA)	DeFazio	Graves
Brady (TX)	DeGette	Green (WI)
Brown (SC)	Delahunt	Greenwood
Brown, Corrine	DeLauro	Gutknecht
Brown-Waite,	DeLay	Hall
Ginny	Deutsch	Harman
Burgess	Diaz-Balart, L.	Harris
Burns	Diaz-Balart, M.	Hart
Burton (IN)	Dicks	Hastings (WA)
Butterfield	Dingell	Hayes
Buyer	Doggett	Hayworth
Calvert	Dooley (CA)	Hefley
Camp	Doolittle	Hensarling

Herseeth
Hill
Hinojosa
Hobson
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley (OR)
Hostettler
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Hyde
Israel
Issa
Istook
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee
(TX)
Jefferson
Jenkins
John
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kline
Knollenberg
Kolbe
LaHood
Lampson
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Leach
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lofgren
Lowey
Lucas (OK)
Maloney
Manzullo
Marshall
Matheson
McCarthy (MO)
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—1

Waters

NOT VOTING—87

Ackerman
Baker
Ballenger
Beauprez
Biggert
Bishop (UT)
Boehlert
Boozman
Brown (OH)
Burr
Cannon
Capuano
Carson (OK)
Carter
Clay
Conyers
Crowley
DeMint
Emerson
Engel
English
Evans
Everett

Frost
Gephardt
Gerlach
Goss
Green (TX)
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hastings (FL)
Herger
Hinchey
Hoeffel
Hoekstra
Houghton
Inslee
Isakson
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Kennedy (RI)
Klecza
Kucinich
Langevin
LaTourette
Lipinski

Lucas (KY)
Lynch
Majette
Markay
Matsui
McGovern
McInnis
Murtha
Neal (MA)
Nethercutt
Owens
Pascrell
Paul
Peterson (PA)
Pryce (OH)
Quinn
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Sabo
Sandlin
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schrock

Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanders
Schiff
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Moran (KS)
Shays
Sherman
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson
Skelton
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Snyder
Solis
Souder
Spratt
Stearns
Stenholm
Strickland
Stupak
Sullivan
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Terry
Thomas
Thompson (CA)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Turner (OH)
Udall (CO)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden (OR)
Walsh
Wamp
Watson
Watt
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Wexler
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

Serrano
Slaughter
Smith (MI)
Smith (WA)
Stark
Sweeney

Tauzin
Taylor (MS)
Taylor (NC)
Thompson (MS)
Toomey
Towns

Turner (TX)
Udall (NM)
Vitter
Waxman
Weiner
Wilson (NM)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WALDEN of Oregon) (during the vote). Members are advised there are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1908

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 442 I was inadvertently detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

CONDEMNING TERRORIST ATTACKS AGAINST RUSSIAN FEDERATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 760.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 760, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 347, nays 0, not voting 86, as follows:

[Roll No. 443]

YEAS—347

Abercrombie
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Bachus
Baird
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bass
Becerra
Bell
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonner
Bono
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd
Bradley (NH)
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine

Brown-Waite,
Ginny
Burgess
Burns
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Cardin
Cardoza
Carson (IN)
Case
Castle
Chabot
Chandler
Chocola
Clyburn
Coble
Cole
Collins
Cooper
Costello
Cox
Cramer
Crane
Crenshaw
Cubin
Culberson
Cummings
Cunningham
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (FL)

Davis (IL)
Davis (TN)
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLaunt
DeLauro
DeLay
Deutsch
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Dooley (CA)
Doolittle
Doyle
Dreier
Duncan
Dunn
Edwards
Ehlers
Emanuel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Farr
Fattah
Feeney
Ferguson
Filner
Flake
Foley
Forbes
Ford
Fossella

Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gingrey
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Granger
Graves
Green (TX)
Green (WI)
Greenwood
Gutknecht
Hall
Harman
Harris
Hart
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Hensarling
Herseeth
Hill
Hinojosa
Hobson
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley (OR)
Hostettler
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Hyde
Israel
Issa
Istook
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee
(TX)
Jefferson
Jenkins
John
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kline
Knollenberg
Kolbe
LaHood
Lampson
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)

Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lofgren
Lowey
Lucas (OK)
Maloney
Manzullo
Marshall
Matheson
McCarthy (MO)
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Menendez
Mica
Michaud
Millender-
McDonald
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Mollohan
Moore
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy
Musgrave
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neugebauer
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nunes
Nussle
Oberstar
Obey
Oliver
Ortiz
Osborne
Ose
Otter
Oxley
Pallone
Pastor
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Pence
Peterson (MN)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Pombo
Pomeroy
Porter
Portman
Price (NC)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Renzi

Reyes
Reynolds
Rodriguez
Rogers (AL)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Lucas (OK)
Maloney
Manzullo
Marshall
Matheson
McCarthy (MO)
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Menendez
Mica
Michaud
Millender-
McDonald
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Mollohan
Moore
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy
Musgrave
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neugebauer
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nunes
Nussle
Oberstar
Obey
Oliver
Ortiz
Osborne
Ose
Otter
Oxley
Pallone
Pastor
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Pence
Peterson (MN)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Pombo
Pomeroy
Porter
Portman
Price (NC)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Renzi

NOT VOTING—86

Ackerman
Baker
Ballenger
Beauprez
Biggert
Bishop (UT)
Boehlert
Boozman
Brown (OH)
Burr
Cannon
Capuano
Carson (OK)
Carter
Clay
Conyers
Crowley

DeMint
Emerson
Engel
English
Evans
Everett
Frost
Gephardt
Gerlach
Goss
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hastings (FL)
Herger
Hinchey
Hoeffel
Hoekstra

Houghton
Inslee
Isakson
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Kennedy (RI)
Klecza
Kucinich
Langevin
Lipinski
Lucas (KY)
Lynch
Majette
Markay
Matsui
McGovern
McInnis

Miller, George	Sabo	Taylor (MS)
Murtha	Sandlin	Taylor (NC)
Neal (MA)	Saxton	Thompson (MS)
Nethercutt	Schakowsky	Toomey
Owens	Schrock	Towns
Pascarell	Serrano	Turner (TX)
Paul	Slaughter	Udall (NM)
Peterson (PA)	Smith (MI)	Vitter
Pryce (OH)	Smith (WA)	Waxman
Quinn	Stark	Weiner
Rogers (KY)	Sweeney	Woolsey
Rogers (MI)	Tauzin	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members are advised there are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1916

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 441, 442, and 443, I was in the Cleveland airport awaiting a flight which was delayed. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on 441, "yes" on 442, and "yes" on 443.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on September 13, 2004, I was unavoidably absent due to an important meeting and missed Rollcall votes numbered 441 through 443.

Had I not been unavoidably detained earlier this afternoon, I would have voted "yea" on Rollcall votes No. 441, 442 and 443.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I was not present to vote on September 13th due to the death of a close family friend.

I intended to vote "nay" on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Con. Res. 363, condemning the human rights violations in Syria. While I am strongly opposed to the human rights abuses being perpetrated by the Syrian government, I am troubled by some of the language in the resolution. Specifically, the resolution states: "Whereas the family law of Syria as applied to Muslim women is governed by Sharia (Islamic) law and is discriminatory in marriage, divorce and inheritance matters." While I fundamentally disagree with this law, I feel that this statement unnecessarily denigrates the religious-based laws of a sovereign nation.

In addition, I would have voted "aye" on H. Con. Res. 667 and "aye" on H. Res. 760.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present for Rollcall votes 441, 442, and 443. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 441, 442, and 443.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, on September 9, 2004, I was away from Washington

on official business in my district and unable to vote on several matters.

Had I been present, on rollcall 434 I would have voted "yea." On rollcall 435, I would have voted "nay." On rollcall 436, I would have voted "yea." On rollcall 437, I would have voted "yea." On rollcall 438, I would have voted "nay." On rollcall 439, I would have voted "yea." And on rollcall 440, I would have voted "yea."

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WALDEN of Oregon). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken tomorrow.

EXPRESSING GRATITUDE TO CITIES OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS, AND NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK, FOR HOSTING 2004 NATIONAL POLITICAL CONVENTIONS

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 765) expressing gratitude to the cities of Boston, Massachusetts, and New York City, New York, for their extraordinary hospitality and successful planning and hosting of the 2004 national political conventions.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 765

Whereas the Democratic National Convention was held from July 26 through July 29, 2004, in Boston, Massachusetts;

Whereas the Republican National Convention was held from August 30 through September 2, 2004, in New York City, New York;

Whereas Mayor Thomas M. Menino, the Boston 2004 Host Committee, and the people of Boston, including a large number of dedicated volunteers, were extremely gracious in their hospitality;

Whereas Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, the New York City Host Committee 2004, and the people of New York City, including a large number of dedicated volunteers, were extremely gracious in their hospitality;

Whereas Police Commissioner Kathleen M. O'Toole and the entire Boston Police Department went to extraordinary lengths to keep Boston safe throughout the duration of the Democratic Convention;

Whereas Police Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly and the entire New York City Police Department went to extraordinary lengths to keep New York safe throughout the duration of the Republican Convention;

Whereas countless city, State, regional, and nationwide agencies cooperated to ensure the safety of each Convention, including the United States Capitol Police, which assisted the local jurisdictions, and the United States Secret Service, which coordinated Federal anti-terrorism and counter-terrorism assets for each of the Conventions as National Security Special Events;

Whereas Members of Congress, delegates from across the Nation, and other interested parties participated in the Conventions and benefited from the secure environments; and

Whereas millions of Americans watched, heard, or read about the Conventions and thereby participated in our national political process: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives thanks, pays tribute to, and expresses gratitude to all of those who assisted in the significant hospitality, logistical, and security efforts to successfully execute the 2004 national political conventions in Boston, Massachusetts, and New York City, New York.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) and the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY).

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 765, and I am joined on the floor by our ranking member, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON); and it is good to be here to express the gratitude of the House of Representatives to the cities of Boston, Massachusetts, and New York, New York, for their extraordinary hospitality and successful planning and hosting of the 2004 national political conventions.

Mr. Speaker, I think I speak for everyone in the House in thanking the people of the cities of Boston and New York, their cities' host committees, and the countless volunteers for making both cities open and welcoming to the many Members of the Congress, delegates from across the Nation, and all other interested parties who participated in our great conventions.

Special recognition needs to go to the Boston Police Department and the New York City Police Department, whose professionalism and constant vigilance guaranteed not only the safety of the residents they routinely protect on a day-by-day basis but the many visitors who attended the conventions.

In addition, we have to thank the countless city, State, regional and nationwide agencies who cooperated to ensure the safety of everyone involved with both conventions. I would also like to recognize the exceptional efforts of the hundreds of United States Capitol Police Officers who provided around-the-clock security for all Members during the convention and who coordinated, of course, with the Secret Service, the FBI and, again, the New York City Police Department. And we cannot forget the firefighters in both New York and Boston that were on hand.

So I am here on a bipartisan basis, though I would note, Mr. Speaker, for the record, I did not see my colleague, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON), at the New York convention. But I am glad to be with him here tonight to thank both cities and everyone involved in both conventions.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. LARSON of Connecticut asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I want to associate myself with the remarks of the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY), my brilliant co-chair. And I also did not see him at the Boston convention; but, nonetheless, he would have been welcome, as was everybody there.

This is indeed a moment for us to celebrate the outstanding job that was done both in Boston and New York, led by Mayors Thomas Menino and Michael Bloomberg, respectively. Their tireless efforts to make the 2004 major-party conventions such successful events are deeply appreciated.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the two police commissioners, Kathleen O'Toole of Boston and Raymond Kelly of New York, now there is diversity for you, for making it possible for the delegates to nominate their candidates, which of course is the purpose of the convention.

I also want to thank the thousands of other public employees who helped to make this possible, not only the Boston and New York municipal governments but also at all levels, Federal, State, and local; and of course as the chairman has already pointed out, the outstanding job that was done by our Capitol Police and all the security that went into these two wonderful events.

I would especially like to thank the Massachusetts delegation for the hospitality that they provided for each and every one of us, and of course their two great Senators, Senator KENNEDY, for which this was a homecoming, and Senator KERRY as well, who was featured prominently in Boston as well, and our outstanding House delegation here from Boston as well. So I thank the chairman and join him in these remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to say that I am sure the minority leader, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), did a wonderful job at the convention in Boston; and as far as our convention in New York, I want to thank the Speaker and also Scott Palmer, Ted Van Der Meid, and Bill Pitts, who did the rules and carried out the process at the convention and service to the Members.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. REYNOLDS).

(Mr. REYNOLDS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank the cities and residents of Boston and New York City for their tremendous efforts in hosting this year's national political conventions. With two of the Nation's most historic and vibrant cities as their backdrops, the Democrat and Republican conventions were both great successes.

Boston and New York have long been known as centers of culture, education, and heritage. After this summer's conventions, it is apparent why they are also recognized for their hospitality, charm, and warm spirit. As tens of thousands of delegates, elected officials, volunteers, and tourists converged on these great cities, countless others worked behind the scenes and on the front lines to make sure programs ran smoothly and safely. These individuals labored tirelessly, not just during the conventions but for several weeks prior, crossing every "T" and dotting every "I."

These events would not have been possible without the efforts of everyone involved. A special thanks to those at the city, State, and regional, as well as national, levels who coordinated and secured the safety of Boston and New York. This includes, of course, the city police and fire departments, the United States Secret Service, the United States Capitol Police, and numerous other agencies that coordinated protective services for both convention-goers and city residents alike.

As the first political conventions held in the post-9/11 world, our police, firefighters, and first responders faced security risks never before envisioned. True to their great reputations, the respective agencies of New York and Boston exhibited consummate professionalism and ensured the safety and security of all those attending and visiting these great cities.

Those accolades extend as well to our Capitol Police and those Federal agencies that worked side by side with their brethren in New York and Boston to ensure a seamless coordination.

Mr. Speaker, the cities of Boston and New York have long represented the freedoms and liberty that nurtured democracy in this country. Today, several hundred years later, one of the best enduring examples of these fundamental rights is the ability to participate in the political process. National political conventions provide a forum for this participation like no other.

To all those who helped make the conventions possible, and to the gracious residents of Boston and New York, I wish to extend a heartfelt thanks on behalf of the House for helping to foster greater political participation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and join me in expressing gratitude to the cities of Boston and New York.

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, House Resolution 765.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of House Resolution 765, the resolution just agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

ONCOLOGISTS GIVE CONGRESS BAD NEWS

(Mr. LAMPSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute, and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, oncology services are critical for Texans. The American Cancer Society expected 83,400 new cancer patients for Texas in 2003.

Cancer sufferers need access to care near where they live, and they need stability of care. An accessible, caring oncology clinic is welcome news for people who have heard some very bad news from their diagnosis. Congress gave some very bad news to oncologists in the passage of the Medicare bill this past session.

The American Society of Clinical Oncology came out on September 8 with their take on the effects of this bill. Their analysis finds that half of practices expect that they will pay more than they are reimbursed for specific drugs for anemia or lung, colon, or pancreas cancers; that they expect a loss of funds for community-based cancer care in the range of 43 to 54 percent; and that one-fourth of the drugs used for cancer treatment will cost the typical oncology practice more than what is covered by Medicare.

I urge my colleagues to press for restoring oncologists' ability to give cancer patients the ability and stability in treatment they need to fight their illnesses. Congress should not deny the drugs necessary to those who need them in this life or death struggle.

U.S. ECONOMY IS IN A MESS

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, every time I hear the administration announce that the economy is going very well, I wish they could ride home on a United Airlines flight with me. On the way back today, four out of the six flight attendants raised the same question with me: Is there money in the pension guarantee fund for our pensions?

Mr. Speaker, we know that this country is in a mess. USAir declared bankruptcy this morning. There go the pension for those folks. And Delta Airlines over the weekend, they are talking

about it. They are saying if the pilots take those pensions, they will bankrupt the company; it will be gone. United is in the same position. All those people who were out there with Enron, Enron went down; and what did they have left? All they had left was Social Security. Nothing, if this administration had its way.

We have an administration that has to be changed. We have lost 1.4 million people's health insurance, 1.5 million people's jobs, and countless numbers of pensions. The regime change ought to come in 49 days.

HONORING CALIFORNIA'S 2004 OLYMPIANS

(Ms. WATSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the participants of the 2004 Summer Olympics from California. Last month, 537 American athletes traveled to Athens to compete for what is arguably the most esteemed prize in the sporting world, an Olympic medal. Among them, were 143 athletes from my own home State of California, and I was able to witness their success.

Our California Olympians made their country proud, winning 78 medals: 31 were gold, 17 silver, and 30 bronze. As representative of the 33rd Congressional District, I would like to honor these California Olympians and their contributions to the Golden State's tradition of individual and collective human achievement.

In particular, I wish to enter into the RECORD the names of those Californians who brought home Olympic gold from Athens:

Lindsay Benko, Women's Swimming, 4x200 Meter Freestyle Relay; Laura Berg, Women's Softball; Shannon Boxx, Women's Soccer; Crystl Bustos, Women's Softball; Brandi Chastain, Women's Soccer; Natalie Coughlin, Women's Swimming, 100 Meter; Backstroke, 4x200 Meter Freestyle Relay; Matthew Deakin, Men's Rowing.

Joy Fawcett, Women's Soccer; Lisa Fernandez, Women's Softball; Jennie Finch, Women's Softball; Tairia Flowers, Women's Softball; Julie Foudy, Women's Soccer; Amanda Freed, Women's Softball; Yolanda Griffith, Women's Basketball; Joanna Hayes, Women's 100 Meter Hurdles.

Monique Henderson, Women's 4x400 Meter Relay; Lovieanne Jung, Women's Softball; Lenny Krayzelburg, Men's Swimming, 4x100 Meter Medley Relay; Lisa Leslie, Women's Basketball; Jason Lezak, Men's Swimming, 4x100 Meter Medley Relay; Misty May, Women's Beach Volleyball; Jessica Mendoza, Women's Softball.

Stacey Nuvean, Women's Softball; Leah O'Brien-Amico, Women's Softball; Kimberly Rhode, Women's Double Trap Shooting; Diana Taurasi, Women's Basketball; Jenny Topping, Women's Softball; Alyson Wagner, Women's Soccer; Kerri Walsh, Women's Volleyball; Andre Ward, Men's Light Heavyweight Boxing; Natasha Renee Watley, Women's Softball.

The talent, dedication and sportsmanship of our California Olympians serves to inspire all of us to strive for success, no matter what our

goals. I am proud to stand here to pay tribute to these California Olympic heroes, and to all of America's Olympic athletes. I thank them all for using their gifts to inspire us all to greatness.

IRAQ AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, violence is rampant both at home and abroad. At least 80 civilians died in Iraqi violence. As the Washington Post reports, "Car bombings, mortar attacks, and clashes between insurgents and the U.S.-Iraqi security forces killed at least 80 civilians across the country Sunday."

□ 1930

In Baghdad, the scene of some of the most intense fighting in months: 27 people died, and 107 were wounded. The green zone no longer exists. There is no exit strategy with honor in Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for the American people to hear from this administration and this Congress how we are going to address the valiant work of our young men and women on the front lines every day and their safety being jeopardized and threatened or killed because we have no foreign policy plan. It is time for an after-plan for Iraq. The reason we are in this catastrophe is because we went into an ill-directed war with no plan.

Today, of course, we bring shame on the House of Representatives for not extending the assault weapons ban. The ATF said assault weapons were designed for rapid-fire and close-quarter shooting, not for Olympics or the duck line.

Mr. Speaker, we need to reauthorize the assault weapons ban to stem the violence at home and the violence abroad.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KLINE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks).

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to proceed with my Special Order at this time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN EXPIRES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my outrage at the decision of the President and the leadership of this House to allow the assault weapons ban to expire. This law has been a critical part of our Nation's successful effort to dramatically bring down the violent crime rate. Since the ban went into effect in 1994, annual firearm deaths have decreased by 25 percent.

According to a study published by the Brady Center, the number of cases in which the ATF traced an assault weapon to a crime has dropped by 66 percent since the enactment of the ban. And the ATF has data showing, the longer the ban is in effect, the fewer assault weapons have been available for use by a criminal. The effect is to dry up the source.

This ban has broad public support. Most importantly, key law enforcement officers and agencies support it. They know these weapons have no place in our communities. The ATF description of these weapons in their "Assault Weapons Profile" clearly shows us why. It says, "Assault weapons were designed for rapid-fire, close-quarter shooting at human beings. That is why they were put together the way they were. You will not find these guns in a duck blind or at the Olympics. They are mass-produced mayhem."

The Department of Treasury has reported these weapons are not suitable for sport and are more attractive to criminals. The ATF goes on to say that, "Access to them shifts the balance of power to the lawless." In essence, these are not weapons to be used by sportsmen or kept at home. They are weapons designed to kill people, lots of them.

Assault weapons have been at the center of many of the worst mass murders in the United States. In 1984, 21 people were killed and 19 people injured by a man with an Uzi in a McDonald's in California.

In January of 1989, another man used a semiautomatic version of an AK-47 to kill five children at an elementary school, and 29 other children and their teacher were wounded in the same incident. This man fired 106 rounds in 2 minutes.

In 1993, Mir Aimal Kasi killed two CIA employees and wounded three others outside Langley using a Chinese-made semiautomatic AK-47 he bought in a gun store in Virginia.

And in July of 1993, eight people were killed and six people were wounded in a San Francisco law office. The man responsible used two TEC-DC9 assault pistols with 50-round magazines.

These weapons are a serious threat to the men and women who serve our

communities as law enforcement officers. Allowing access to these weapons means our law enforcement officers have to carry heavier firepower that they do not want to use.

In 1994, every major national law enforcement organization worked hard to pass the assault weapons ban, and now, this President and our congressional leadership have abandoned these peace officers by letting the ban expire. This is particularly stunning given the world we live in after September 11, 2001. Yet they have now made it easier for terrorists to arm themselves in our country.

Mr. Speaker, this is unacceptable. We do not need these weapons in our communities. They are an invitation to death and destruction and a threat to our freedom. This Congress needs to restore the ban immediately to protect our constituents and our children.

I urge the Speaker to schedule a vote as soon as possible and ensure that assault weapons do not come flooding back into the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HENSARLING addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THANKING SYLVIA NUGENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. THORNBERRY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, there are many ways to serve our country. We are most mindful of the men and women serving on the front lines of the war on terrorism, who risk or even lose their lives for our freedom and security.

But as Ken Towery, a remarkable man who has been a POW in World War II, a Pulitzer Prize winner and Presidential appointee reminds us, "Not all men are called upon to respond to battlefield conditions. But all men and women will face many, many situations where courage and duty and responsibility are required and where the true measure of their worth is how well they respond to those challenges."

One way to serve our Nation is by working on the staff of a Member of Congress. It is the Members themselves who receive most of the attention, positive and negative. It is our names on the ballot and in the newspapers. We are the ones who cast the votes on legislation and are ultimately responsible for all that is done in our name or on our behalf.

But as each Member knows, everything we do is assisted by and made possible by the men and women who serve on our staffs.

I am extremely fortunate, for I have had and have today a group of exceptional individuals who have worked

with me as I have tried to represent the people of the 13th Congressional District of Texas. At the center of everything I have tried to do for my constituents and for our Nation has been my chief of staff, Sylvia Nugent.

Sylvia comes from a heritage of service to the country. Her father, Vernon Herrington, is a retired FBI agent, having served in the Bureau for more than 25 years. Sylvia grew up learning a sense of patriotic duty as her family moved around the country in her father's various stations.

Sylvia has been married to Dr. Rod Nugent for more than 36 years. And first, she raised her family and volunteered in her community, contributing much. As her children matured, however, she became more involved in politics, becoming active in several campaigns in Texas.

In 1994, to my good fortune, she became the campaign manager for my first race for Congress. Then she served as chief of staff for my office until August 31, 2004. Sylvia is now a grandmother, and she and Dr. Nugent are preparing for the next phase of their lives.

In some ways, Sylvia has not been a typical congressional chief of staff. She was a bit older than most when they entered government service. She has been based in the district; whereas, most chiefs of staff work out of Washington. Yet, the exceptional qualities of patriotism and commitment to service which she exemplifies do represent the best of the people and the work which goes on in the legislative branch of government.

Sylvia is exceptionally gifted. Her intelligence and knowledge help her to get to the root of a problem quickly. Her emotional intelligence and perceptiveness, her people skills, are even more impressive. She is someone to whom a person on an airplane flight will pour out their problems and leave rejuvenated after hearing her counsel. Underlying all of her talents and abilities is a caring heart that wants to help and serve.

She made sure that, in all of the work which my staff and I undertook, we remembered that we work for the people of the 13th Congressional District of Texas, that our efforts are funded by the taxpayers, and that our mission is to help people and serve our Nation. Whether it was locating a lost Social Security check or obtaining military medals earned by a veteran 60 years ago, she was committed to helping the people of the 13th Congressional District. Whether it was cosponsoring a rural health care bill or passing the bill to create the Department of Homeland Security, she was committed to doing what was right for the country.

As she supervised all of the constituent service, communication and legislative work in my office, she also helped advise and guide staff members and interns on their careers and lives, leaving her mark for years to come.

Having raised four outstanding children of her own, she brought those nurturing abilities to all with whom she came in contact.

Most importantly, everything she did was motivated by a love of country and a desire to serve and improve. Sylvia has responded to challenges and to opportunities with courage and duty and a sense of responsibility beyond what was required. In a way, her commitment and dedication have been extraordinary, but in another sense, it is the same kind of commitment and dedication that has made America great and continues to ensure that Americans do their duty in whatever circumstances they are placed.

Mr. Speaker, I know that I have been tremendously blessed. And my family and I will continue to be blessed to count Sylvia and Rod Nugent among our dearest friends. But the Congress, Texas, and the Nation have also been fortunate to have had the service of this extraordinary lady.

CONGRESS COMMITS SHAMEFUL ACT OF OMISSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, today, this Congress committed a shameful act of omission. When today's congressional session ended, so too ended the assault weapons ban that has helped to keep our streets safe for the past decade.

In 1994, President Clinton bravely ushered the assault weapons ban through Congress. This act took its political toll on not only President Clinton but also the Democratic Party, but he stuck to his guns, so to speak, and strongly supported passage of this important legislation.

As a result, the use of military-style automatic weapons in crimes dropped from 4 percent in 1995, before the ban had taken effect, to 1 percent in the year 2002. In fact, according to the Department of Justice, the proportion of banned assault weapons traced to crimes has dropped by 66 percent since 1995.

The refusal by the House Republican leadership to bring up an extension of the assault weapons ban and the failure of President Bush to push for its renewal is about much more than gun control. This issue is about nothing less than the very security of our Nation.

Today's failure to extend this important law will make Americans less safe. In fact, al Qaeda, in their training manuals that were recovered from Afghanistan, specifically cited the ease of obtaining automatic rifles and machine guns in the United States. To many terrorists around the world, America is known as the great gun bazaar.

Let us break down the facts: First, al Qaeda, our worst enemy, has specifically instructed terrorists on how to

exploit America's gun laws to obtain the weapons they intend to use to kill Americans.

Next, the United States had a proven and effective law on the books that made it difficult to purchase these deadly weapons, and this law needed to be renewed.

Finally, President Bush, who claims to be a huge homeland security supporter, stayed silent. Why did he remain silent? Why did the President not act? I believe the answer is really pretty simple.

□ 1945

The National Rifle Association, the NRA, refused to support President Bush's reelection bid until after the renewal date for the assault weapons ban came and went, that was today, came and went untouched by the White House. This President has been cowed by the NRA. The sad irony is that last week Vice President DICK CHENEY made the outrageous claim that it is absolutely essential on November 2 that Americans make the right choice because if we make the wrong choice, then the danger is that we will get hit again. I quote that from the Vice President's remarks.

This misleading connection in addition to insulting the intelligence of the American people wrongly asserts that a vote for JOHN KERRY and JOHN EDWARDS is a vote for terrorism. Instead, al Qaeda will be poised to hit us again because in large part on September 13, 2004, today, the Republican leadership has allowed Islamic militants and others to once again purchase American machine guns, all for the reelection of the President. How very, very shameful that is. If we truly want to secure our homeland, we need to pursue policies that are smarter than those that would decriminalize deadly weapons to elect someone to office. By the way, virtually every major law enforcement organization in the United States of America supports extending the ban.

That is why I have introduced a new SMART security platform for the 21st century. H. Con. Res. 392 is legislation to create a sensible, multilateral, American response to terrorism. SMART security is stronger on national security than President Bush claims to be. SMART security will stop the sale of weapons to oppressive regimes and regimes involved in human rights abuses. SMART security will pursue enhanced inspection regimes and regional security arrangements to ensure that state sponsors of terrorism do not get ahold of more light weaponry, or even deadlier chemical or biological weapons.

Let us talk for a moment about presidential flip-flops. When it comes to keeping assault weapons out of the hands of terrorists, George Bush speaks out of both sides of his mouth.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KLINE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana

(Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks).

FACTS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES ON MEDICARE REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, the President spent some time recently taking, and I concede this, well-deserved credit for last year's Medicare bill, for foisting last year's 678-page, \$534 billion Medicare law on seniors and the rest of the American public. The fact that he is proud of this law, a law that hands HMOs \$12 billion in bonus payments, HMO insurance companies get \$12 billion in bonus payments while raising seniors' premiums by 17 percent, a record amount, raises a larger issue: How have seniors fared under the last 3½ years of the Bush administration? It is not a difficult question to answer. The facts speak for themselves.

We remember several months ago the President actively lobbied for the Medicare overhaul that would treat seniors without drug coverage like second-class citizens, forcing them out of traditional Medicare and into private insurance company HMOs.

Members will remember that vote. It took place in the middle of the night. It was a 3-hour vote, the longest in congressional history. There was more campaign payoff money on that vote from insurance companies and drug companies to Republican Members of the Congress. We all remember that. The President put his weight behind that new Medicare law that lines the pockets of HMOs to the tune of \$12 billion, that lines the pockets of drug companies to the tune of \$182 billion, and explicitly blocks seniors from access to competitively priced prescription drugs. The insurance companies, as I said, got a payment of \$12 billion. The drug companies' profits went up \$182 billion and Republican leadership and the President did very well in this campaign year with contributions from the drug companies and the insurance companies. They could certainly afford it after legislation that will create and bring to them those huge profits.

After that, the President spends millions of dollars of our money, of taxpayer money, of dollars that could have gone to a prescription drug plan, could have gone to seniors to reduce the cost of seniors' drugs, but the President spends millions of dollars of our money on ads touting the new Medicare bill with the slogan "same Medicare, better benefits," even though the President and his advisers knew his handiwork would be directly responsible for the largest premium increase in Medicare history, 17 percent,

the largest premium increase in Medicare's 38-year history, not to mention deductibles that will for the first time that seniors have to pay increase year after year after year.

Do not believe anyone that tells you the Bush administration is not responsible, in spite of the ads the President is running, is not responsible for the 17 percent premium increase just because he says premiums are calculated by a formula. Yes, they are calculated by a formula written in the bill that the drug and insurance companies wrote that the President pushed through. That is like pouring gasoline on a campfire, then blaming someone else when the forest burns down.

The President's Medicare law, inflated by a \$12 billion HMO slush fund and an outright prohibition on bulk rate prices, bringing the price down, swelled the overall cost of Medicare which in turn increased the premium that seniors pay. America's seniors know it. You and I know it. Everyone in this Chamber knows that is why premiums went up, because of the deal the President made with the drug companies and the insurance companies.

In his budget proposal this year, the President recommends cutting \$60 billion from the Medicaid program, \$60 billion, even though Medicaid covers 70 percent of the nursing home care provided in this country. Without Medicaid, two-thirds of America's seniors in nursing homes would have to find some other source of care. For many of those seniors, there is no other source of care. For others, families have to patch together the care any way they can, even if it means they become impoverished.

Medicaid provides health care, nursing home care and home health care to nearly 5 million seniors living below the poverty line, 149,000 people in my State of Ohio alone. The recession and massive job losses have left States struggling to finance their full financial obligations to Medicaid. If the Federal Government does not do its part, the Medicaid program is in jeopardy. The Bush administration is simply not doing its part because of its budget cuts to Medicaid and because of the tax cuts which have gone overwhelmingly to the 1 percent wealthiest Americans.

The President's hand-picked Social Security Commission came up with a privatized plan to drain \$1.8 trillion from the Social Security Trust Fund over the next 5 years. Privatizing Social Security, privatizing Medicare, cutting Medicaid is no benefit to seniors. It is the wrong direction for our country.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SHUSTER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. EMANUEL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

SPLIT PERSONALITY

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, my colleague from Ohio has shown one of the hallmarks of this administration, its ability to spin a tale. Say it often enough and the American people may actually begin to believe it. In fact, they are so good at it they may have begun to believe their own press releases.

The other day, Secretary of War Rumsfeld delivered a major speech at the National Press Club. Along the way, terror got a new name, Osama Hussein. Or was it Saddam bin Laden? In English, the rule is I before E except after C but in this administration I equals A. Iraq equals al Qaeda because they say so, not because there is a shred of evidence. There is not.

Mr. Rumsfeld appeared to link Osama bin Laden and Saddam Hussein in the same breath. He has got them all confused in his head now. He has said the story so many different times and they still are trying to connect the al Qaeda with what happened on 9/11. Or maybe it was just a stumble compounded later in his appearance by another gaffe. Or was it reading too many spin memos that your head begins to turn and spin and spin and you do not know where you are. At the very least, this shows the effect of a PR campaign that began well before the invasion of Iraq. The separation between the rhetoric and the reality has blurred into one and the same. Over and over again, the administration has exaggerated the tie between Iraq and al Qaeda. When questions from the Congress and the American people outstripped the rhetoric, the administration's rhetoric got louder, a lot louder. Today it is so loud that it is hard to hear the quiet truth. But it is there.

It has been over a year and a half since the President ordered the beginning of hostile action against Iraq. It has been over a year since the President declared "mission accomplished." Absolutely no one on the planet believes that the mission has either been accomplished or will be anytime soon. Even some Republicans are now talking about a presence in Iraq over the next two decades. Is that the plan for winning the peace? Is that the plan for the consequence of going to war in Iraq?

Today, U.S. military commanders are using more air strikes in Iraq. If that

helps save American lives or keep soldiers safe, out of harm's way, I am all for it. If this is a new military strategy, then it raises the question, why can we not get a lot of American soldiers out of Iraq and get them out of harm's way? It has been almost 3 months since the so-called handover. In those 90 days, 150 soldiers have died and 900 have been wounded. We cannot ask what we are going to do to win the peace because U.S. soldiers are still fighting and dying in a war. This is not the time to ask how the administration plans to win the peace, because there is no peace in Iraq today.

Colin Powell came out yesterday and said we have a secret plan that sometime soon we will roll out so we can get stability at the time of the election. What is he waiting for? The election? Or the fact that he does not know what he is doing? U.S. forces managed a weekend without a military death but the death count of innocent Iraqi citizens is up dramatically over the last 48 hours. In another day of war, there can be no peace.

Today, the American people have a fog of war, reality obscured by an administration which would prefer that we merely accept their version of reality or versions when the story needs to change. While it may have been a slip of the tongue the other day at the National Press Club, one wonders whether Secretary Rumsfeld inadvertently expressed publicly what he thinks privately. Are bin Laden and Hussein two different faces of evil, or are they some kind of split personality? Spin the rhetoric around enough and it gets hard to separate it from the reality on the ground, here or there.

The administration has wrapped itself in the mantle of fighting the war on terror. Just today this administration could have struck a major blow against terrorism simply by extending the ban on assault weapons. These are bona fide weapons of mass destruction. We know where they are and we know how to keep them out of the hands of the bad guys. The President said he favored the ban, but then he did absolutely nothing to make it happen. You think he could not get the leadership in the House of Representatives to act on this if he meant business? He never meant anything close to that.

The administration did not need weapons inspectors from the U.N. or air strikes from the military to find and isolate weapons of mass destruction that will threaten police officers and our security officers and our homeland security. All the President needed to do was tell his surrogates in this body and the other body to extend the ban. That did not happen, despite overwhelming support from the American people, despite overwhelming support from law enforcement officers. Instead, the administration used empty rhetoric to disarm a true weapon in the war on terror.

The regime is coming to an end, Mr. Speaker, in 49 days.

FLORIDA WEATHERS THE STORMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, in a few minutes, my other colleagues from Florida will be speaking on the horrible disasters that have befallen our State. I am proud to stand with my Florida colleagues in a bipartisan manner to congratulate and thank all of the men and women who have helped to make our fellow citizens be better able to cope with this crisis.

I want to express my condolences for the victims of Hurricanes Frances and Charley and the victims of Hurricane Ivan in the Caribbean. These storms have caused a great loss of life and property, but it would have been far worse had it not been for the sound planning and the quick response from Governor Jeb Bush and President George W. Bush. Governor Bush organized an effective plan and ensured that the National Guard would mobilize in the areas that were hardest hit.

I also would like to commend President Bush for his quick declaration of an emergency and his handling of the disasters. Thanks to President Bush, Floridians were able to quickly receive the essentials that they needed. President Bush traveled to Florida to inspect the disaster and was handing out water and ice to those affected and he spoke to Floridians who had lost everything in this disaster.

Here in Congress, we acted last week to pass an emergency supplemental appropriations bill to help FEMA pay for the disaster relief of Hurricane Charley. Soon our colleagues in Congress are once again rising to the same challenges as we prepare to pass another supplemental appropriations bill for Hurricane Frances.

□ 2000

I am proud to represent both Miami-Dade County and Monroe County. Miami-Dade experienced the loss of electricity in many areas as well as a shortage of fuel, and the Florida Keys have been evacuated twice, leading to a huge economic loss to that area. Today for the third time in a month, another part of Florida braces for a disastrous storm. All of south Florida prays for the safety of those in the path of Hurricane Ivan, and I am confident that if it were to strike our State, Governor Bush and President Bush and all of the emergency workers will once again be ready to quickly respond.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to bring to the attention of this Chamber the economic losses which the Florida Keys have suffered as a result of the two mandatory evacuations imposed in less than a month. Tourists had to leave, which meant a huge economic loss for the area. The Florida Keys badly depends on the thousands and thousands of tourists who come to enjoy south Florida. My good friend, the colorful commissioner of Key West,

Tom Oosterhoudt, will be manning the emergency operations center tonight from 10 to midnight when the winds of Hurricane Ivan will be whipping by Key West.

The Florida Keys, as all of us know, are the southern-most point of Florida. Their abundance of nature and beaches, fishing, and coral make them one of the largest destinations for tourists, and they come from every corner of the globe to bask in the year-round beach weather. Conservationists and nature lovers come to enjoy the many birds and plant species that are found in no other place.

However, because of these three hurricanes that have threatened to strike, the Florida Keys have been evacuated at various times in these weeks. And for an economy that is heavily dependent on tourism, these hurricanes have been economically devastating.

My district office staff helped out today at Florida International University, the shelter for the Monroe County residents who had to evacuate their lovely keys. This week alone Key West lost 20 to \$30 million in lost sales tax revenues. This is just in 1 week.

So I call on all Americans to plan a visit once again to the Florida Keys now that the hurricanes have almost passed. I invite them to discover the beauty and the wonder that Hemingway and President Truman fell in love with and which encouraged them to make the Florida Keys one of their homes. Come to our beaches, swim in our coral reef, fish in our waters, enjoy the sun; and while there, of course, a mandatory visit to a bar in Key West; swim in Sombrero Beach in Marathon, and ride a jet ski in Key Largo.

As the Florida Keys representative in Congress, I welcome people to come and visit the Florida Keys and all of south Florida once again, and they will see why I am so proud to represent such a beautiful and diverse place.

H. RES. 717, RECOGNIZING 58TH BIRTHDAY OF WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KLINE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the resolution to honor the 58th birthday of the 42nd President of the United States, William Jefferson Clinton.

I came to Washington the same year that the President did. We both were elected in 1992 and took office in 1993. Those 8 years were the best anyone could imagine. Under his leadership, the United States ran a budget surplus for the first time since Lyndon Baines Johnson's administration. The economy had its highest productivity level in decades, and nothing has been seen recently that even remotely compares to this.

This President had the leadership to push through Congress an assault

weapons ban that stopped dangerous and unnecessary automatic and semi-automatic guns from our neighborhoods. Rather than leaving important policy decisions to others, he took the lead in some unpopular positions to place this country in a position to lead the world. Under the Presidency of Mr. Clinton, our country achieved new heights of respect.

I wish former President Clinton my best wishes on a speedy and successful recovery.

Once again I want to wish a happy birthday to William Jefferson Clinton. I speak for my constituents and many millions of Americans in expressing my gratitude. We thank him once again for his leadership of service, and this country truly misses him.

HONORING LU PALMER AS A FORCE IN COMMUNITY LIFE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Mr. Lutrell "Lu" Palmer, a noted and respected Chicago leader and national leader. I am saddened to announce that Lu Palmer has been called to glory by our God in Heaven. He made his transition early Sunday morning at his home.

Lu Palmer's life was a life of courage, commitment, and compassion. His extraordinary sacrifices made on behalf of the voiceless, the disinherited, and the disadvantaged are legendary. Lu Palmer sacrificed a successful career as a columnist for the Chicago Sun Times because he would not compromise his principles and write what the editors wanted. He resigned rather than cave in to those who tried to silence and censor his voice.

Mr. Palmer's radio commentaries on WVON entitled "Lu's Notebook" were heard on radio each and every day. And again, although his commentaries were very popular and eagerly anticipated by thousands of listeners, his sponsors tried to again silence his voice by withdrawing their sponsorship, thereby removing his "Lu's Notebook" from the radio waves. Lu Palmer remained steadfast. Lu Palmer still would not be silenced.

Mr. Palmer's community activism created a campaign which ultimately elected Harold Washington as the first black mayor of the city of Chicago. His "We shall see in '83" motivated a movement the likes of which were and still are unprecedented.

Mr. Speaker, it is exceedingly difficult, if not impossible, to capture Lu Palmer's life in the brief time that I have. The impact that Lu Palmer has made on the local and national arena will require much more than what is encapsulated here. All over the country, Lu Palmer has conducted seminars and has participated in workshops where his expertise and his messages have been that of imparting valuable

information and providing direction for untold masses of people from Boston to Marquette University, to Carlton and St. Olaf's College, to Valparaiso, to Missouri and Colorado and Mississippi and Georgia, and to countless other States and college campuses and meeting halls. He transmitted a powerful image to and for the enrichment and uplifting of African Americans.

In Chicago, alone, Lu Palmer led such fights as the removal of asbestos from Chicago public schools and the fight against the wrongful draft of African Americans in the armed services. Behind the scenes, he helped in the mobilization to unseat the notorious Edward Hanrahan as Cook County state's attorney after the murders of Fred Hampton and Mark Clark of the Illinois chapter of the Black Panther Party, and he also provided assistance in the mobilization against police brutality in the 1970s.

Lu Palmer also provided vital research to the groups that fought overcrowding of schools in African American neighborhoods and did the same for groups that coalesced to have the first African American selected as the superintendent of the Chicago School Board. This group ultimately became CBUC, Chicago Black United Communities.

In 1981, the organization launched a historical march toward a black mayor, and it was very successful. It was Lu Palmer who solidified Kwanzaa as an African American observance. On his above-mentioned radio program, he presented the 12 principles of Nguzo Saba on a daily basis, to the extent that listeners began to understand, absorb, and seek more clarity and participation in the African-based cultural rhythms.

Thousands and thousands read Lu Palmer's articles and columns in mass media newspapers, but even more heard his insightful and incisive commentaries on "Lu's Notebook."

Mr. Speaker, Lu Palmer made his transition. We have lost a giant. And, Mr. Speaker, my condolences and the condolences of my family are extended to Georgia Palmer and to her entire family. We mourn the loss of Lutrell "Lu" Palmer. We will miss him.

Carry on, brother. God bless.

THE ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in 1994 Congress passed the Federal Assault Weapons Ban as part of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994. The law banned the sale to civilians of 19 types of semiautomatic weapons, but many manufacturers have been able to skirt the prohibition by offering knock-off models. Domestic gun manufacturers were required to stop production of semi-automatic assault weapons and ammunition clips that hold more than 10 rounds, except for military or police use.

The assault weapons ban will expire or "sunset" today unless Congress passes legislation to renew the law. President Bush has stated his support for the assault weapons ban. Unfortunately, the House refuses to act until the President calls on Republican congressional leadership to do so.

The Assault Weapons Ban is supported by virtually every Federal, State and local law enforcement agency, including the Fraternal Order of Police, the National Sheriff's Association, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Major City Chiefs Association, and the International Brotherhood of Police Officers. The ban was supported by Presidents Reagan, Ford, Carter, and Clinton, and by Republicans Tom Ridge and Rudy Giuliani.

Prior to the ban, ATF found criminals prefer assault weapons over law-abiding citizens eight to one. In the 5 years before the ban, assault weapons made up almost 5 percent of ATF crime gun traces. Since the ban, assault weapons have made up only 1.5 percent of these traces—a drop of 66 percent from the preban rate.

As recently as December 2003, an NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll found that 78 percent of adults nationwide support renewal of the ban. Additionally, 57 percent of people with a gun in their household support the assault weapons ban. The ban does not include hunting rifles and shotguns, which is probably why a majority of hunters support extending the ban today. The greater the availability of assault weapons, the cheaper their price, and the more wind up on the streets.

We need to take action immediately, and I urge my colleagues in Congress to step up and do the right thing by extending this ban.

CONGRESSWOMAN JACKSON LEE URGES HOUSE GOP LEADERSHIP TO SCHEDULE IMMEDIATE VOTE TO RENEW ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN THAT EXPIRES TODAY

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Today, September 13, 2004, the ten-year federal ban on assault weapons is set to expire unless Congress takes immediate action to extend it. Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee has continued to urge the House Republican leadership to schedule an immediate vote to renew the ban. The Congresswoman has received many calls in support of an extension by local enforcement officers and gun control advocates who have been lobbying for congressional action on the ban. Extension of the ban is supported by more than three-quarters of Americans nationwide. The Senate approved a renewal of the ban earlier this year, but the House has not voted on the matter because the House Republican leadership refuses to allow a vote.

"For ten years, the assault weapons ban has helped keep semi-automatic assault weapons off the market, off our street, and out of the hands of gangs, terrorists, drug dealers, and most importantly our children," Congresswoman Jackson Lee said. "It is imperative that the House Republican leadership schedule an immediate vote to renew and strengthen the assault weapons ban so that these deadly weapons are not allowed on our streets again. These are not the weapons people use for hunting deer or wild game. These assault weapons are designed to kill as many people as quickly as possible."

The ban, which was approved in 1994, prohibits the domestic manufacture, import, and sale of 19 types of semi-automatic assault weapons such as AK-47s, TEC-9s, and Uzis, as well as dozens of other weapons, which are designed to kill quickly and violently. Unlike weapons firing single rounds,

assault weapons are designed to spray many bullets into a single area, as opposed to a single target, increasing the chances of hitting innocent bystanders who are in the crossfire.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), there has been a 66 percent reduction in the number of traced crimes committed with assault weapons since the ban went into effect. A study of FBI data by the Violence Policy Center reveals that one in five law enforcement officers slain in the line of duty between January 1, 1998 and December 31, 2001 were killed with assault weapons. "This serves as further proof that the assault weapons ban not only needs to be renewed, but intensified," Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee stated, "I am a cosponsor of a bill to renew the ban for another ten years as well as another bill to strengthen the ban by adding weapons to the prohibited list and making it permanent."

Congresswoman Jackson Lee continued, "The Second Amendment to the United States Constitution allows people to 'keep and bear' firearms. The important question is where we should draw the line. People should not be allowed to have shoulder-fired rocket launchers, nor do they need a semi-automatic weapon that can fire off 30 shots in a matter of seconds for recreational hunting. We need to renew and strengthen the federal ban on assault weapons."

The assault weapons ban is supported by virtually every federal, state, and local law enforcement agency, as well as organizations including the Fraternal Order of Police, the National Sheriff's Association, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Major City Chiefs Association, and the International Brotherhood of Police Officers.

THE REPUBLICANS' COZY RELATIONSHIP WITH CORPORATE INTERESTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, this evening I want to remind the American people about the Republican Party's cozy relationship with our Nation's corporate interests. This relationship has been extremely beneficial to America's corporate elite, but has been extremely harmful to America's middle class. It is necessary for me to remind the American people of this relationship because Republicans are now doing everything they can to run away from the relationship.

Republicans are hoping the American people forgot that Vice President CHENEY worked behind closed doors with corporate executives from the oil and gas companies to write an energy bill that benefited them with billions of dollars while doing virtually nothing to help middle-class Americans with rising prices at the gas pump.

Republicans are hoping the American people will forget President Bush misled the American people into supporting the war in Iraq and rushed to war with absolutely no plan to win the peace. Last month the President finally admitted that he miscalculated

in Iraq, but now Republicans would like the American people to forget such comments.

They would also people to forget that the war in Iraq has now cost the American taxpayer \$200 billion in which billions of dollars have gone to another corporate friend of the Bush administration, Vice President CHENEY's old company, Halliburton.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans are hoping the American people forgot that while their own Medicare director was negotiating a final Medicare prescription drug bill, he was interviewing for jobs with the very pharmaceutical companies that benefit from the new Republican Medicare law. This same director, Tom Scully, illegally kept critical information about the costs of the Medicare bill from Congress, which most likely would have killed the controversial bill before it became law. But Republicans would like the American people, particularly the 40 million seniors who depend on Medicare and who deserve a real prescription drug benefit, to forget that the new law benefits the pharmaceutical companies and only provides a minuscule benefit to senior citizens.

Republicans also would like the American people to forget that they have been doing the work of America's corporate and special interests for the last 4 years to the detriment of the best interests of America's middle class.

Mr. Speaker, Senator KERRY and congressional Democrats will take our country in a new direction and put the middle class first. Despite what President Bush and congressional Republicans promise over the next few months before the election, they will continue to put the narrow interests of the few ahead of the middle class.

Let me talk about some of these special interests this evening, Mr. Speaker, if I can. Let us just look at the record of the Republicans over the last 4 years. Republicans have accomplished many of the goals that corporate interests have set forth with no concern about how these goals would impact middle-class America. I want to just talk about the economy first, and then I will maybe yield to the gentlewoman from Florida, who I see has come down here to join me.

On the economy, the Republican mission has been accomplished for companies seeking tax breaks for shipping jobs overseas, but not for America's workers. The Bush administration needs to create more than 900,000 jobs in 2 months, over the next 2 months, in order to actually create its first net job.

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Now, one would think that the administration would be doing everything possible, looking at every creative solution, to get Americans back to work; but, instead, what we see is the Bush administration taking the side of the corporate interests. They

are not worried over the fact that in the next 2 months they are not going to be able to create almost 1 million jobs to show a net job gain.

The Bush administration would like the American people to forget that the centerpiece of its supposed economic stimulus plan was a provision to eliminate the amount of taxes paid by individuals on stock dividends. Economists concluded that this handout to the President's corporate friends would not create high-paying jobs to the middle class. Three years later, after this tax cut was put in place, it now turns out that the economists were right. Instead of creating jobs for the middle class, President Bush hit them with a \$364 billion deficit, something our children will be forced to pay off in the future. All this not to create one single job; remember, we have a net loss right now of almost 1 million jobs, not to create one single job but, instead, to help inflate the wallets of President Bush's corporate friends.

Now, one would think that the administration would be against companies moving jobs overseas. We have heard about the outsourcing, Mr. Speaker, many times over the last year. But earlier this year, we learned that the Bush administration views the movement of American factory jobs and white collar work to other countries as a positive transformation that will, in the end, enrich our economy. How many of the administration's economists said that outsourcing was a good thing?

The administration stated exactly that in the President's economic report for 2004. This was the President's own economic report for this year. Now, no wonder President Bush thinks that our Nation's economic forecast is rosy. He is not concerned about creating jobs here in the United States. As long as the economy continues to grow and the President's corporate interests continue to make record profits, that is fine with him. President Bush cannot be too concerned about his dismal job creation record since he refuses to discontinue his administration's policy of giving tax breaks that shift American jobs overseas.

Now, by contrast, if I could, Mr. Speaker, Senator KERRY and congressional Democrats want to help middle-class Americans by ending special tax breaks for companies that outsource jobs and creating tax incentives for companies that keep jobs here in America. Those are the companies that we should be rewarding, those that will keep the jobs here, not send them overseas.

Congressional Democrats have also long supported a transportation bill that would stimulate the economy by creating millions of jobs all over the Nation and provide much-needed transportation modernization funding. That transportation bill is stalled because the administration refuses to support the necessary funding that is also supported by some Republicans in this Chamber.

Now, I know the gentlewoman from Florida would like to have some time. I just wanted to say, one of the things, before I yield to her, one of the things that I cannot forget when I look back over the 4 years of the Bush administration is that 4 years ago, in January, when the President first took office, and by March, he took office in January, and by March of that year it was looking like the economy was starting to falter, and the congressional Democrats met in a caucus. We had a special caucus meeting, and we came up with an economic stimulus package, because our feeling was that if we were able to provide an economic stimulus, transportation projects, infrastructure, sewer plants, money than went back to the States for all kinds of activities, school construction, hospital construction, that that would make it possible for the economy to keep moving along and not fall into a recession.

But the congressional Republicans and the President, President Bush, absolutely refused. Their answer was, we are not interested in that kind of economic stimulus that creates jobs, that provides infrastructure; we just want tax cuts. And then by, I guess, the spring or the summer of that year, they had implemented the first round of their many tax cuts.

The bottom line is it is 4 years later, all the rhetoric about how the tax cuts were going to turn the economy around has simply proven to be false, and the only thing that would have made a difference then, and I think still would make a difference now, if there was some sort of economic stimulus package that dealt with infrastructure, particularly as I mentioned the transportation bill; but I really believe that at the time, if we had worked on a bipartisan basis and not implemented these tax cuts, but rather implemented an economic stimulus package, we would not be in the situation we are now where there is a net loss of almost 1 million jobs since President Bush took office.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Florida for joining me tonight, and I yield to her.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the gentleman from New Jersey before he leaves. I know that he heard about the back-door announcement made by the administration on the Friday afternoon before Labor Day: the cost of Medicare for seniors is rising by 17.5 percent to \$78.20 per month. This is something that I know my grandmother and all of our grandparents cannot afford.

The blame for this increase has been put on the rising medical costs. However, it is this administration with its close ties to health care lobbyists that has failed to do something about spending. In fact, that bill that we passed, the Republican Party will finally do what they have been trying to do for 35 years to the program: destroy the program with these inflated costs. Can the gentleman address this?

I come from Florida where Claude Pepper, my mentor on health care issues, the most well-known advocate for seniors, a man who fought for years and years to strengthen Medicare and Social Security, would be rolling in his grave if he were here today.

This is a life and death issue for many of our senior citizens. The bill that was passed that prohibits the Secretary from negotiating the prices of the drugs, the bill that was passed in the House in conference, not one single Democrat was permitted to be in the room, the people's House, not one. And in the Senate, for the first time ever, the Senate leader was not able to pick who was going to be in the room.

Can the gentleman from New Jersey explain to me and to the people who are listening today about this increase and what can we do to repeal this hideous Republican bill that was pushed through by this President?

Mr. PALLONE. Well, first of all, let me thank the gentlewoman so much for not only coming here, but also for what the gentlewoman is asking. I am not leaving; I am here with you. I like to go back and forth, and I certainly have a lot more to say tonight.

Let me also say, before I start getting into the issue, I am so glad the gentlewoman mentioned Claude Pepper. I was elected the year he left, and I remember because it was a Presidential year. I think it was the year that the first President Bush was elected, and I got to meet him at the convention.

Sometimes, when we talk about procedure, people fall asleep because they figure we are going into procedure, so what does it all matter. But one of the things that I was so determined to do when I got here in 1988, because of Claude Pepper, is that I wanted to be on the Select Committee on Aging, which he had chaired for many years. And when that committee met, they did incredible oversight. They would have hearings on a regular basis, looking into the Medicare program. I would tell the gentlewoman right now, if that committee still existed today, we would never have had the problems that the gentlewoman is talking about and this misrepresenting by the Republican administration about what is going on with the Medicare program.

One of the biggest criticisms I had was that in 1994 when Republicans took the majority and Gingrich became Speaker, was that they got rid of the select committees, including the aging committee which I served on. Because even though Claude Pepper had not been there, and I think it was the father of the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD) who was the chairman, we did such a good job in terms of oversight. And once that committee was gone, the oversight function of the programs for the seniors just disappeared, and I blame the Republicans for that, frankly.

I know that is not what the gentlewoman is talking about, though.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, when the Republicans took over in 1994, I will never forget that they tried to take his picture down out of the room, someone who served this institution, this country, and dearly beloved. I participated in a march to that room to make sure that we reinstated Claude Pepper's position, because he deserved to have his picture in that Committee on Rules room.

I have to tell the gentleman, I remember him at the conventions and his liveliness and how he fought so hard for seniors in this country. And now this administration, with their lies and misleading people about this Medicare bill, this bill that prohibits the Secretary from negotiating the price of the drugs. We on the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, along with the Department of Defense, insist, insist that they negotiate the price of the drugs so we can keep the costs down for our veterans, for our people, military families. No one can explain it. There is no discussion. When we raise that issue, they give us a blank stare, because the pharmaceuticals wrote those provisions.

What has happened here, the fox has moved into the House of Representatives, into the people's House. We see it with this Medicare bill. We see it on environmental issues. We see it over and over again. If this administration, and I do want to talk about Medicare, but if this administration that totally runs this House of Representatives, totally controls the agenda of the House of Representatives wanted an assault ban, it would have been on the floor and it would have been passed. They control. We cannot have a hearing.

We talk about homeland security. We cannot even have a hearing on railroad safety because the administration will not sanction it. I have never seen anything like it. I have been elected to the House of Representatives for 12 years. I have been an elected official for 23 years, and I have never seen such disrespect for the House of Representatives, for the people's House. I take it very seriously, because I was one of the first African Americans elected to Congress from Florida in 129 years. I take my job very seriously. And it is just, it saddens me to no end to see how the administration, which is a separate branch of government, runs the people's House, the House of Representatives. It is a disgrace.

Now, would the gentleman please tell me about the Medicare and what can we do so that my grandmother, who does not have an additional \$78, \$80. I know to these big-timers, that is nothing. But the seniors who are living on a fixed income, that is deciding whether to buy their medicine or buy food. They are going to raise the costs, and where is the money going? It is going to the HMOs and the pharmaceuticals. It is criminal.

Mr. PALLONE. Exactly.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. We can play politics on some things, but in

an area like this, it should not be any politics played.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman is absolutely right. The premium increase is very significant. It is the largest one we have had in the history of the Medicare program: 17 percent.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. They want to kill the program.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, it has gone from basically \$66 to \$78, about an \$11 increase, the biggest we have ever had. President Bush says it is because of the high costs of health care. That is simply not the case. The bottom line is there are two major reasons why this increase is so high. One is what the gentleman mentioned, when they passed the so-called, and I call it "so-called" because it really is not a Medicare bill, it is a privatization bill. When they passed their so-called Medicare prescription drug bill, they increased the amount of money that would go to the HMOs, the insurers in general, but particularly the HMOs, in order to entice them to cover senior citizens. And the result is that a significant amount of this increase, and this increased premium is going to go to pay those HMOs and those insurers to entice them to get into the Medicare program which, as the gentleman knows, most of them do not want to get into any; and no matter how much money you give them, they are probably not going to get into it.

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The second thing is they have been raiding the trust fund. Just like Greenspan was saying a couple of weeks ago during the break, he got up and talked about how the Social Security Trust Fund was running dry, same thing with the Medicare Trust Fund. Why? Because the Republicans are borrowing the money to pay for their tax cut. There is a huge deficit. Where is the money borrowed from? The Social Security and Medicare Trust Fund.

Now, these funds in the last year of the Clinton administration were starting to build up the money that they had so that they would not be bankrupt at all. I mean frankly if we had not had those tax cuts I would predict within 5 or 10 years the trust fund would be so solvent for both Medicare and Social Security that we would not even have a problem for the next generation or two, but no, they could not do that because they wanted to give back those tax cuts.

If we read that, that increased premium, another significant part of it, goes into the trust fund to replenish the trust fund. So what are we talking about here? This is Republican, Bush administration policy that has caused this big increase.

As my colleague said because you are giving the money to insurers, the HMOs primarily, and also to replenish the trust fund because they borrowed from it to pay for the deficit, which has been generated by their tax cuts and

all this for a Medicare prescription drug program bill which as you went on and described is practically worthless. In fact, I would say it is a detriment to the program.

It is not bad enough, as my colleague says, that there is a specific prohibition on negotiating prices. I mean, if they did not put a specific prohibition, the Medicare administrator would have been able to do that because as my colleague knows, right now with the VA, with the veterans, with the military, the DOD and the Veterans Affairs are allowed to go in and negotiate price reductions because they have the power now of all these veterans and military. That is just a natural thing that you would do in a capitalist society. I mean, we are all about negotiation and bargain. That is what capitalism is all about, right?

But, no, because the drug companies did not want that to happen, they specifically put in a prohibition on negotiating prices so the government and Medicare administrator could not negotiate the prices.

When I hear my colleagues say, well, we had to do that because somehow it would be un-American for the Medicare administrator and others to negotiate prices, we are already doing it with the VA and the military. What is un-American about going out and trying to get a bargain? I thought that is what capitalism was all about. It is unbelievable to me.

I yield back to the gentleman.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I just want to say that the Republican Party, with the direction, because he definitely gives direction to this House, they do not do anything without his direction, he has done more to destroy Medicare. What the Republicans have been trying to do for 35 years, that is just where we are now. They want to bloat the bill so that next they cannot afford it, and next on the agenda will be Social Security. Coming from Florida, next will be Social Security, and he wants to gamble with Social Security. This administration wants to kill the New Deal. Let us just face it. They want to kill public education with all of their gimmicks.

I said they practice what I call reverse Robin Hood. When I was growing up, I loved that program, Robin Hood. This administration practices what I call reverse Robin Hood. Robbing from the poor and working people, poor and working people, to give tax breaks to the rich, to the top 2 percent, and it just amazes me how they say one thing and do another.

I must go to the assault weapons. The President said, I understand, and it is amazing they were able to pin him down that he said anything, but he said during 1999, because during the debates he never answered one question. I am hoping that the media insists that he answer some questions during the debate because he never answered any. They said he looked comfortable and looked like he could prop his feet up

but never did he answer a question. So to say that he actually committed one thing that he would support the assault weapons ban, to continue the ban, well, then he says, well, if it is put on his desk. I guess you say that and then someone said whatever you do, do not pass that bill, do not even bring it up for a vote on the House of Representatives floor, not even in the people's House, when the majority of the American people support it. Why can we not have a vote on this floor to send a message where we stand as elected officials on this particular bill? But if the President wants it, I can rest assured and you can rest assured that the American people, we would have that ban.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, let me tell my colleague, when it comes to the procedures around here, I mean we could talk on. You are absolutely right. Everything is orchestrated from the White House, and any notion that any legislation that the President wants would not come up for a vote or that the President does not want, it is all orchestrated and you gave an example before of where we were talking about the Medicare bill.

One of the things that was so amazing to me was how that vote was orchestrated. One of the criticisms that I mentioned when I started out this evening is how the Medicare administrator Tom Scully orchestrated this whole vote in the House, and when his own actuary Foster said to him that the cost of this bill was going to be significantly more than what the Bush administration had told the Congress and what the congressional Republicans had suggested, the administrator told the actuary that if he revealed that information to Congress he would be fired. As a consequence, the Congress never got the information about the actual cost of the Medicare bill.

My colleague knows that there were many on the Republican side of the aisle that did not want to vote on that bill because they thought it was going to be too costly, and they did not like, for whatever reason, the cost, and now we know the GAO came out with a report last week that said that Scully's action was illegal, it was illegal for him to deny that information to Congress. He was told by the GAO that he had to refund his salary from the day he threatened to fire the actuary who had the truth about the cost. My colleague talks about procedure, I mean they are literally not giving Congress information in an illegal fashion. How can we even vote on anything around here if we cannot get the true facts about what the costs are?

Now that we know that it was illegal, well, the Department of Health and Human Services says we are not going to go after him for the money, he does not have to give back the money, and he said he is not giving back the money. Where did he go? He went to work for a law firm that represents all the drug companies that benefited from the bill. You talk about the procedure.

I will never see the disgrace that we had that night of the vote.

You know we had 218 votes on that board against the bill. There is absolutely no question that the will of this House of Representatives was to defeat that Medicare prescription drug bill because almost all the Democrats and a significant number of the Republicans knew it was a bad bill, it was not going to accomplish anything and probably suspected it was going to cost a lot more than that was represented by the administration.

I looked on that board. I have never in my life seen a situation where the majority have voted against the bill and there was not anybody left who was going to make a difference who had not voted, and we sit here for 3 hours in the middle of the night until the President gets on the phone and calls enough Republicans. He invites Vice President CHENEY to change the votes.

You try to tell me that they are not directing what goes on the floor of the House of Representatives? What kind of a democratic process is that where the House has voted and 218 people have voted and said this is a lousy bill and I do not want to vote for it and we sit here for 3 hours while the White House twists arms and who knows what they promised people. One guy, they told him what, was SMITH, I guess, from Michigan.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. His son.

Mr. PALLONE. They told him they were going to deny his son the nomination to replace him if he did not change his vote. I mean, this is the kind of thing that was going on. When you talk about procedure, I totally agree with you. They control the process from the White House. Do not let anybody tell you they do not.

Ms. CORINNE BROWN of Florida. My comment that night was a snake is a snake, no matter what color it is, and the AARP are getting in bed with a snake, the Republican Party, on this issue. I said it and I stand by it. Now I understand that the AARP is asking for some changes. My constituents constantly call me about AARP and I tell them my position. I have always supported them because they were an advocate for the seniors, but on this issue they really deserted the seniors.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, if I am not mistaken, and I do not know, I do not have the information in front of me, but there was a strong suspicion that AARP was looking to sell this Medicare prescription drug policy, and again it is an example of corporate interests holding sway around here because somebody is trying to make a buck.

I yield back to the gentlewoman.

Ms. CORINNE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I want to raise another issue with my colleague, and it is pertaining to the Vice President CHENEY and the package he received when he decided to run for Vice President.

My understanding, and I want to be correct on this, but I understand he got a \$34 million retirement package when he retired, but also I am trying to find the exact amount that he gets every month.

What was very disturbing to me is that his company Halliburton got a sole source contract before the first shot was fired. I have worked really hard trying to help minority and female businesses get a part of government opportunities, government business, but this is an example of sole source, no competition, no nothing, billions of dollars to your company and then say, well, you know, I had nothing to do with it. Well, who believes that? But let us go on.

I received calls from soldiers. Let us say Halliburton was supposed to provide 25,000 meals a day, twice a day. They were charging the American taxpayer for 100,000 a day. That is criminal, but yet there is nothing and we are still doing business with them, and you know it is just nothing. It is just amazing about how they are running this war.

We gave them, I want to be correct, \$89 billion for the first 6 months. Six months later, they came back and asked for another \$87 billion. Everybody talked about the second \$87 billion. No one talks about the first \$89 billion. There is no accountability. They will not even tell Congress what they did with the first. They certainly did not provide the military with the flak suits and the armor and what they need to protect the Humvees. What happened? What happened to the first \$89 billion? There is no accounting, no telling the people, that is our job of oversight, what happened to it, and then 6 months later, they came with another \$87 billion. I did not vote for it and I support the troops 100 percent, even though I know that they were sent to a war based on lies from the beginning.

I went to all of the briefings. I went to all of the discussions, and they did not show me not one single thing that they did not know in 1991.

So people said, well, why did some Democrats vote for it and others did not? Well, I come from Florida and I know they stole the election in Florida, and my grandmother always told me if you lie, you steal, and it goes on and on. So I had no trust in this administration.

Certainly, they were telling Members, please give the President the authority to go to war, he is going to use it as a hammer. I mean, I guess some people really trusted him, and I guess the American people still trust him, but I go with the facts. I knew that this administration started out based on lies.

What happened in the 2000 election was criminal and what have we gotten from that? We have a war in Iraq. Now we are taking the Medicare prescriptions, pollution, and Leave No Child Behind is just a slogan, because we

have cut funds for after school programs, Head Start programs, day care programs. A wonderful slogan, Leave No Child Behind, stolen from the children defense armor, should I say, adopted by this administration.

So there is a lot of anger in me because this administration constantly misleads the Congress and the American people.

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Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman again. She made a comment before about who represents the majority, and not that I am looking to take away from the electoral college, because I know that is the way we elect the President under our Constitution, and I am not going to get into the specifics about what happened in Florida, because the gentlewoman knows much more than I do about what happened. But the bottom line is, there is no one who can contest the fact that President Bush lost the majority. He lost the election in terms of the majority, in terms of the actual number of people who voted, by half a million people. Half a million less voted for him than for his opponent.

So I often wonder, when I come down here and hear some of the things he says, it is not difficult to figure out that he is not representing the majority, because, clearly, the majority did not elect him. Nobody on either side of the aisle is contesting that, the fact that the man lost the popular vote by almost a half million people, which is a huge amount.

Beyond that, I want to say to the gentlewoman that I did not vote for any of those appropriations, nor did I vote for the war either. We know now that the war has already cost over \$200 billion. These figures that come up about 80, or 80 here or there; it is well over \$200 billion already. And one of the biggest things that worry me beyond the actual cost of the war is this money that is being spent to rehabilitate or redevelop or whatever the term is in Iraq.

We talked earlier about infrastructure here in the United States and how, over the last 4 years, as Democrats, we wanted an economic stimulus package, whether it was new school construction or new highways or new hospitals. Well, that is what is going on in Iraq. Millions and millions of that money is being spent for reconstruction in Iraq. And I am not talking about damage that was done as a result of the war; I am talking about new buildings.

I will never forget, they did not do it this year in September, but last September, in 2003, there were a couple of my Republican colleagues who, with glee, came to the floor and brought bookbags. They had just come back from Iraq, and they had these bags loaded down with bookbags and books and pencils and paper and everything, the American eagle on the front of it. And they proudly displayed them here in the well and said, Look, every

schoolchild in Iraq today got one of these bookbags with these books and papers and pencils.

And I looked at it, and I even got on the floor, I believe, at the time and said, You know, I have schools in my district, and I am not one of the poorest in the State, believe me, where nobody has anything like that. Not only does the school not issue it, but the kids cannot even afford to come to school with the pencils or the paper.

Now, I am not trying to begrudge anybody anything, but, to me, it is an outrage that we are spending all this money in Iraq, and we are not spending it here in the United States. It is just outrageous.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will, on just that point.

Mr. PALLONE. I yield to the gentlewoman.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. The President indicated from the beginning that they would be able to pay for the expenses. They have one of the largest oil reserves in the world.

But then the President says, Well, we do not want to burden their people down with debt. But it is okay for the American people, our children and grandchildren, to pay this debt.

And then they cut Social Security and Medicare and Housing and Veterans' Affairs. This administration has already put out a memo that, If re-elected, we will cut all domestic programs, all domestic budgets.

So it is okay for the American people to carry this burden, but yet, why are we saving the oil reserves? Why is it that part of it, a portion of it, cannot be a loan to these people? It is just amazing to me.

Mr. Speaker, when the gentleman talks about teachers, when I go to the Dollar Store, they are in there buying supplies themselves, the teachers, because the schools cannot afford it, particularly with this new provision of Leave No Child Behind. It is a real crunch to the school systems throughout. I know, Florida, in talking to the superintendents, where we put in these additional standards, standards are wonderful, but once we find out that a kid has a deficiency, what are they going to do about it? We did not put the money there to follow the standards.

In other words, it is what they call an unfunded mandate. Does the gentleman know about unfunded mandates?

Mr. PALLONE. Oh, absolutely. I remember, years ago, and it may be before the gentlewoman was here, that the Republicans, when we were in the majority, because I was here from 1988 to 1994 when the Republicans took the majority, and we would get procedural motions on a regular basis from the Republicans about unfunded mandates, how the Democrats were passing legislation and not providing the money to back it up.

Clearly, No Child Left Behind is the biggest unfunded mandate that ever ex-

isted around this place. The gentlewoman is absolutely right.

We do not hear anything about that now because they just want to talk about how wonderful the program is. But there is no money for it, not anywhere near what there was supposed to be to fund it.

I wanted to go back, and maybe the gentlewoman does not want to stress this Halliburton thing so much.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. No, no, I want to stress the Halliburton thing.

Mr. PALLONE. Well, I have to just talk a little about it, because I have some of the statistics. The gentlewoman had asked about some of the statistics concerning the money.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Does the gentleman know how much a month Mr. CHENEY gets?

Mr. PALLONE. Well, this is what I have. This is a Congressional Research Service report that was issued several weeks after he made that statement on, I guess it was on Meet the Press, and CHENEY made a statement that he severed the ties with the company, got rid of all his financial interests, has had no financial interest in Halliburton of any kind, has not had now for over 3 years.

Despite those claims, the Congressional Research Service issued a report several weeks after that Meet the Press interview, and they concluded that, because he receives a deferred salary and continues to hold stock interests, he still has a significant financial interest in Halliburton. And they said, basically, he has \$433,000 in stock options. Basically, his deferred salary is about \$200,000 a year. That is what he gets deferred, because of these stock options, about \$200,000 a year that he gets from Halliburton.

This notion that somehow he does not have a financial interest anymore is just nonsense.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Well, Mr. Speaker, my records indicate that the deferred compensation account was valued at between \$500,000 and \$1 million.

Mr. PALLONE. That is correct, if you take the whole value of it. I think it gives him about \$200,000 a year for the rest of his life. But if you take the whole value of it, that would be right.

The other thing I wanted to say is that, when we talk about Halliburton and what they have done in Iraq and the illegal activities, we are not making this up. I just wanted to give some facts. First of all, Halliburton has acknowledged, so this is not myself or the gentlewoman making this up, they have acknowledged, and I quote, "They accepted up to \$6 million in kickbacks for their contract work in Iraq." They admitted that.

Second, they are now being investigated by the Pentagon for overcharging the American Government for its work in Iraq. They face criminal charges in a \$180 million international bribery scandal during the time that

CHENEY was the CEO. They have repeatedly been warned by the Pentagon that the food they were serving 110,000 U.S. troops in Iraq was dirty. And a Pentagon audit found blood all over the floor of the kitchens that Halliburton supplies all over in Iraq.

And, finally, Halliburton is getting around an American law that forbids doing business with rogue nations. Thanks to a giant loophole, Halliburton is able to do business with Iran, of all nations, through one of its subsidiaries in the Caymen Islands.

So here we go. In World War II, they called these war profiteers. If you were a war profiteer in World War II, it was like you were the worst person on earth. People would not even talk to you. They would not have anything to do with the company. Here, they are profiting off the war in this fashion, and we do not hear anybody from the administration talking about it in terms of their wanting to sever their ties or they do not want them to continue doing their work. They continue to get all these no-bid contracts as we speak. It is just unbelievable.

So I do not know if the gentlewoman wanted to say anything else, but the other thing I wanted to mention tonight when we talk about these special interests, because it still has not been resolved, is this whole issue of this energy task force. When he first became Vice President, one of the first things CHENEY did was establish this task force that was supposed to come up with a new energy policy.

Groups like the Sierra Club and a few other groups that wanted to find out who was on this task force and who was behind this task force, because this was a secret task force, they had to go all the way to the Supreme Court because CHENEY and Bush refused to give out the information about who sat on this task force.

Now, the gentlewoman and I can speculate, but, obviously, they were trying to hide something, probably some oil and gas CEOs that were involved in this thing. And to this day, they do not reveal the names of the members and what this task force was about. And when they finally came up with the legislation from this task force, all it did was help the oil and gas companies.

As the gentlewoman and I mentioned, one of the biggest problems the average American faces right now is the rising cost of gas. I do not know what is going to happen this year with home heating oil again. These guys, both CHENEY and President Bush, were from the oil industry, and they continue to hide who was involved in this energy task force in coming up with this energy policy.

Fortunately, that bill, which passed here, has not passed over in the other body, so it has not become law. And I hope it does not between now and the end of the year. But this is just another example of playing right into the corporate interests. It just never ceases.

If the gentlewoman does not want to add anything else, I will conclude this evening, Mr. Speaker. But I just wanted to say, once again, that, if we look at the record of President Bush and the congressional Republicans, there is absolutely no indication that they are shifting in any way their emphasis away from the special interests to the middle class. They have squeezed the middle class families.

When I was home during our August break, I had open houses. I had hundreds of people showing up at my offices, and they all had the same problem: I lost my job; my job went overseas; I tried to get money for retraining, and the money was not there. The public is just being squeezed.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Just one thing, if the gentleman will continue to yield.

We constantly try to bring up an extension on the unemployment. This is money that people have actually paid into it. But this administration and the House refuses. Because of what reason? Because I am not quite sure. They do not want the public to know how many people are unemployed? What is it?

Mr. PALLONE. Well, I do not understand the whole phenomena. Somehow, in some Republican minds, and I am not saying all of them, because I know there are some that do not agree, but certainly the majority and the leadership seem to think that somehow unemployment compensation is somehow welfare or some sort of giveaway.

They refuse to acknowledge, I think, that people have paid into it while they worked, and they just seem to think somehow it is some sort of giveaway to people who do not want to work.

These are people that have tried to look for a job and have not been able to find one. You have to show that in order to get the benefits.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Well, Mr. Speaker, this whole question of outsourcing and then this administration talking about the jobs they have created, they are low-paying service jobs. And most people are happy to have a job, but we have lost the best jobs. And this administration refuses to do training programs, or they cut those programs, educational programs.

The 9/11 Commission was talking about the recommendations, and I was listening to them. And they were talking about the young people in Iraq, and they did not have jobs or training. And I said to myself, We have that same problem right here in the United States.

We have that same problem right here in the United States. And so while we are addressing other areas, other countries, Iraq, their training and education, we need to be doing the same thing here with the people that are paying the bills. It is amazing.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, let me give the gentlewoman an example, and I have used this example before, but I will use it again.

I mentioned all the people that came into my office for the open houses. The one thing that very much stuck in my mind was a gentleman came, and I will not mention his name, who had worked for the Frigidaire plant in Edison, my largest town. The plant closed, and 1,500 jobs went to China. Everybody lost their jobs, good jobs, union jobs, health benefits, good pension, the whole thing.

Under one of the bills that was passed here, in the event that you lose your job because it goes overseas, and I have not favored these trade bills, but regardless, it provided that there was going to be, absolutely, retraining programs for these people if a plant closed and so many jobs went to China or some other place overseas.

This guy comes into my office, and he had actually found another job. I do not think it paid as much or was as good, but it was still a good job.

□ 2100

It required retraining. He went to the Federal office or maybe it was a State office with Federal dollars to do the retraining to qualify for the job. They told him we do not have any more money. Federal dollars had been cut back, and there was no money. This was something that was authorized and required under the law. There was no money from the Federal Government to do it, he was not able to get the job. He is sitting home not working.

It is unbelievable. As the gentlewoman says the promises, if you lose your job overseas, we are going to retrain you, we are going to give you a Medicare prescription drug benefit, and it is absolutely not true. When I go home, that is all I hear. I call it the middle class squeeze: Rising prices, health care, higher education costs, and gas prices. At the same time if you have a job and are not keeping up, even those people who have a job, they are getting less real dollars and the prices keep going up, and nobody in the Bush administration seems to think anything is wrong. That is reason enough why we have to have a change in November.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN) for joining us this evening.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) for his leadership day in and day out speaking to the American people. I hope this is a wake-up call because God knows, we need one. This administration talks the talk, but they do not walk the walk. As the veterans say, they do not rule the world. They talk about how much they care about veterans as they cut programs. There will be a cut in all programs under another 4 years of this administration.

These people on the other side of the aisle really do believe in giving the moneys to their corporate friends, what I call reverse Robin Hood, robbing from the poor and working people, to

give tax breaks to the rich. That is their agenda, and they push it through over and over again. I really hope the American people will give us some help in the next election.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4571, LAWSUIT ABUSE REDUCTION ACT OF 2004

Mr. SESSIONS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 108-684) on the resolution (H. Res. 766) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4571) to amend rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure to improve attorney accountability, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

HURRICANE SEASON

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KLINE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, since the early weeks of August, Florida and its residents have endured the unrelenting and unsympathetic wrath of Mother Nature. Through the harsh design of fate, Florida was dealt the unfortunate circumstances of bearing the brunt of not one but two hurricanes, and it appears more dark clouds are poised to visit the Sunshine State.

This map very carefully tracks the two hurricanes that hit Florida. The first one in orange is Hurricane Charley. It was upgraded to a tropical storm at 5 on August 10, continued raising havoc in Jamaica, and in Jamaica it became a hurricane on the 11th, and it hit Punta Gorda, Florida on the 13th, exactly one month ago today, at 4:30 p.m.

Frances became a category 4 on the 28th of August. On the 2nd, it was in the Bahamas, and Frances made landfall in Stewart, Florida, at 1 on September 5. So Florida has been hit twice and based on the latest weather forecast, it appears that the Panhandle will be hit again with Hurricane Ivan.

It is not the first time that Florida has been devastated by three hurricanes all at once. The State has experienced such occurrences before. Actually in 1964, three storms hit Florida within an 8-week period. The hurricanes were named Cleo, Dora and Isabel. Regardless of what we name them, it does not make living in a State with so many hurricanes a lot of fun. Those hurricanes slammed the State. Thus, Floridians are not bewildered by the sheer numbers of hurricanes that threaten to trounce the State.

With regard to the power and force of these menacing natural disasters, well,

before Hurricane Charley came ashore the people of Florida have understood and respected the potential power that a hurricane wields. I recall in 1992 when Hurricane Andrew hit the State, and it hit the Homestead, Florida, area and had a devastating effect there.

We have a few photos of some of the examples of the kind of destruction that a hurricane can do. Obviously this house as a result of the hurricane was damaged and would have to be completely torn down. Again, we have more destruction. This is an area that certainly as we look at the picture we say, how could people go back and say I want to rebuild. But wanting to rebuild and having the courage and the strength that so many Floridians do to face the hurricane and the destruction that goes along with the hurricane and yet have the spirit, the human spirit that says we are going to stay, we are going to rebuild and make the community even stronger.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. KELLER) from the Orlando area.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I have just returned from Florida where I took a helicopter tour of the greater Orlando area and saw firsthand the extensive damage which has literally turned upside down the lives of several hundred Central Floridians. I have empathy for those who have suffered such severe damage because my own mom, Laura Keller, completely lost her home in Hurricane Charley.

Despite these temporary heartaches, I am optimistic about central Florida's future. Last Tuesday, we passed legislation in Congress to immediately provide \$2 billion to FEMA to help our citizens in Florida recover from Hurricanes Charley and Frances. The very next day, President Bush signed this legislation into law. Together we acted with near-lightning speed to provide immediate relief. This \$2 billion will be able to help Central Florida families with things like temporary lodging, food, water supplies, medical care, and will allow roofs to be repaired. I know that I speak for all central Floridians when I say to my congressional colleagues all across the country, thank you for being there and voting for this important relief package.

But after taking this helicopter tour, I can tell Members this \$2 billion we have already provided is only a down payment, and I say that regretfully because I know how tight money is around here these days. Fortunately, President Bush agrees more money is needed. Earlier today the White House requested that Congress provide an additional \$2.5 billion in hurricane relief for Florida. I will strongly support this much-needed appropriation.

Mr. Speaker, our citizens have suffered enormous out-of-pocket costs which should be taken into account by FEMA. For example, imagine that a person has a \$300,000 home and he has

suffered \$30,000 in property damage as a result of these two hurricanes. Now some people outside of Florida may mistakenly think no problem, you have insurance, insurance will pay for it.

Actually, it is a big problem and here is why. Since many of these Florida insurance policies have 5 percent deductibles and these two hurricanes are viewed by insurance companies as two separate and distinct events, it is entirely possible that the individual will have to pay the entire \$30,000 bill himself, 100 percent out of pocket. I believe in this type of circumstance, if the person is not eligible for a FEMA grant, he should at least get a zero percent loan from FEMA to cover the out-of-pocket cost. It is patently unreasonable for us to assume that the average citizen has \$30,000 lying around in his checking account just in case he unexpectedly gets blind-sided by two hurricanes.

Mr. Speaker, these people need help, and it is up to those of us in Congress to try to help them. Rest assured that Congress, especially those from Florida, will continue to work very closely with President Bush and Governor Jeb Bush over the next few weeks to help rebuild Florida as quickly as possible and in a way that makes Florida stronger than ever before.

I urge all of my colleagues in Congress to support this \$2.5 billion hurricane relief package. It is the right thing to do and now is the right time to do it.

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, earlier I mentioned Hurricane Andrew, and Hurricane Andrew came around the fall of 1992 when I was just elected to the Florida Senate. I served at the time with the very distinguished gentleman now in Congress with me, the gentleman from the Palm Beach, Florida, area (Mr. FOLEY).

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for organizing this opportunity for us to come to the floor and let the rest of the country know what Florida has been living through.

I came to Florida from Massachusetts at the age of 3, and I remember waking up early one morning in 1960 to a storm that we had never known in Massachusetts, and that was Hurricane Donna. We went about putting masking tape on our jalousie windows. That is what we were told to do for safety. My, how things have changed.

The people of Florida are storm weary and they are fatigued. Their resilient nature and strong character have been tested over the last few weeks. But as we have done before, Floridians are banding together, helping their neighbor and slowly rebuilding their homes, their businesses and their communities.

Never in our Nation's history have two storms brought this much destruction back to back to one State. Unfortunately, the people of the 16th District have weathered the worst. Hurricane Charley reached landfall on August 13, 2004, and blasted its way

through southwest Florida with winds of upwards of 145 miles an hour and 10-foot storm surges.

This is Hurricane Charley as it originated off the African coast. It was upgraded along the way, became a very, very distinguished storm in intensity. We heard it would probably go to Tampa. I can remember watching that storm at 3 in the afternoon in West Palm Beach, my home, and watched as that storm made almost a right-hand turn into Punta Gorda and increased in velocity and intensity.

That was a Friday afternoon at 4:30. At 7 a.m., Governor Bush and FEMA Director Mike Brown and I hit the tarmac at Fort Myers airport to begin a very telling and shocking look, an aerial observation of death and destruction. It is hard for anyone to quantify the feeling you have when you watch somebody who is about 80 years old walking out of a totally destroyed mobile home park with nothing more than a pair of white dress shoes. That was all she could find. I watched that repeated home after home in beautiful Punta Gorda, Florida, never before known to many, now known to all. The names Punta Gorda and Port Charlotte have been replayed on every national news broadcast as the scene of just total and complete devastation.

□ 2115

Hurricane Frances reached landfall 3 weeks later on September 4, 2004, and battered Florida's East Coast and central region with 105-mile-per-hour winds and up to 17 inches of rain. Again another storm, I must tell you, coming from a similar track and a similar trajectory, coming towards us at quite a bit of speed. Fortunately it started to slow as it approached the Bahama chain and clearly then stalled off of West Palm. I remember watching from the emergency operations center at West Palm as that storm seemed to set there for an incredible amount of time. It finally made landfall again in the 16th District in Sewells Point, Florida, which is located in Martin County close to the city of Stuart, and proceeded to do damage and destruction as it virtually made an X across Orlando. The gentleman from Florida (Mr. FEENEY) will be talking a little bit about how it impacted his district, which has Brevard and I believe Osceola and Orange Counties, but he will tell you how it basically made an X over Orlando as if they were charted and plotted to take that trajectory.

Twenty-seven people lost their lives from the wrath of Hurricane Charley to date. Eighteen people lost their lives from the devastation caused by Frances. Insured property losses for Charley are climbing in excess of \$7 billion. Hurricane Frances damages are estimated up to \$4 billion. More than 20,000 farms were in the path of Hurricane Frances and damage estimated to Florida's agricultural community exceeds more than \$2 billion. The travel and tourism industry faces millions of

dollars in lost revenue. Power outages have affected more than 6 million people and, boy, have we heard it. At times I felt like I was the service representative for the power company, we had so many calls coming to our office. Believe me, I understand your aggravation because I too was without power for a significant part of last week.

Florida's Governor Jeb Bush took immediate action to declare a major disaster for the entire State of Florida and deployed necessary resources to deal with the crisis. The Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA, has more than 2,700 agency workers helping with the recovery effort. The National Guard was quick to mobilize more than 4,100 troops to help in the relief efforts, both to provide security for people in the region as well as provide humanitarian relief for those impacted. \$2 billion has been requested and granted thanks to the hard work of the Florida delegation, including its chairman, Mr. BILL YOUNG, chairman of the Appropriations Committee, Chairman CLAY SHAW of the entire delegation, and \$2.5 billion of emergency moneys is now being forwarded to this Chamber by the White House.

Some reforms are in the process. We filed a bill that would allow one-time penalty free withdrawals from IRA accounts for people living in natural disaster areas. We have asked for the potential halting of cement tariffs so we can quickly rebuild our communities. We have asked to consider the insurance disaster relief reserve accounts that we think would stabilize and make insurance companies more financially sound to weather these storms and the burdens they place on those companies' reserves, regional emergency energy reserves to look at the coordination between Federal-State agencies bringing fuel supplies to regions most impacted to run the diesels, the power, the waste treatment plants, and, of course, to review our energy repair efforts after a disaster.

And now Ivan is somewhere stirring in the coast and we are praying, I have prayed more in the last 4 days than I did in 10 years of Catholic school, hoping that Ivan would not do the destruction that was contemplated just several days ago. We pray for all those in the Panhandle. Our colleague JEFF MILLER and I were speaking today and worried about its potential impact on the Panhandle, of course, New Orleans, any of those areas. We just hope maybe the storm loses its steam and subsides. But you see now why Florida and even areas in Virginia were hit by hurricanes.

But I just want to thank again my colleague from Florida for providing this opportunity to kind of let people know how difficult it has been the last 5 weeks in Florida but how strong the people have been and how I know with the help of the Federal Government and our colleagues in this Chamber that we will do our best to remedy. We will not be able to right every wrong or

every problem people have suffered, but we are certainly going to work on trying to make their lives at least better as we prepare to deal with these back-to-back tragedies.

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. We both had experiences both with Hurricane Andrew and these hurricanes that we have had this year. I have noticed a marked improvement in FEMA and with the coordination of FEMA and the State agencies. Having been involved and had people who suffered through both of those hurricanes, I see a much more rapid response on the part of FEMA this time. I know that is exactly what is happening in the Tampa Bay area and I am sure it is happening in your area. If you would like to take just a moment to address that, I would appreciate it.

Mr. FOLEY. It is interesting you mention that, because last night I saw Joe Allbaugh, who was the former FEMA Director under President Bush, the first FEMA Director under this administration. He told me how President Bush during his term as Governor had suffered 14 hurricanes in Texas over the course of those 3 years. One of the things they talked about is the plan that they put in place to rapidly position rescue efforts, relief efforts, water, ice and other things in staging areas so that we would not repeat the tragedies of years past, Andrew being one of them, where it was a week before even then Governor Chiles asked for even Federal help.

So it is interesting as we watched particularly in Charley, if I can take you for a minute to that day, Saturday, when we were aerial above the community. Hundreds of trucks moving in on the highways. Very little other traffic. But these relief trucks were already there. The winds had only stopped blowing a few hours before and they were making their way into Florida to try and remedy the damage. I know we have not got everything right. There are still some kinks, but the difference in the way they have approached restoration of basic utilities, of water, of the basic provisions, including two visits by President Bush to Florida, helping hand out supplies himself. We are all touched by these storms and we cannot work miracles, but I can tell you and I thank you for bringing that to the attention of our colleagues, because FEMA and its response through its lead agent, Mike Brown, has been tireless, relentless and has been thorough. I salute them because they are under a lot of pressure, as you can well imagine. Constituents are upset, mad, aggravated, tired, hot. Every emotion you could possibly have has been felt in Florida. But FEMA really has stepped up to the plate.

The other person is Governor Bush. You have got to give him credit. I have known Jeb probably since 1982, when he was a Secretary of Commerce, a young real estate lad in Florida and now obviously our esteemed Governor. I do not think he has taken his eye off the ball

once in the last 5 weeks. It has been an incredibly focused effort, hourly updates. You cannot imagine what I BlackBerry him about. I am wondering when I am going to get the BlackBerry back fully. Take a nap. But he responds. He is getting the problem solved. It has been a very, very wonderful thing to watch. And he does not have an election before him. He is in his second term. He cannot run for reelection. The kind of effort he is putting through, I have heard a few people say, oh, it's all politics. He is not running for anything. He is finished. He has done his two terms. He is working hard on behalf of the people because he feels their pain. And he was in Andrew. He was in Miami at the time. He remembers the lack of response and he is not going to let that be repeated to the citizens of this great State.

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Without a doubt, there has been rapid response. Part of the redesign of FEMA is that they have so many people on standby, whether it is a retired nurse or a doctor who will take time off to go exactly where they are needed. We must always remember, too, that the National Guard has been of great assistance. I know they have been in several of the counties that I represent. As I went around the counties, people are saying it is much better organized. If I could wave a magic wand, just as you have said this, too, wave a magic wand and have everybody's power put on, but we do not want to have those power companies out there endangering the lives of their crew either. This is difficult sometimes for people to realize. Nobody likes to be in the dark sitting there by candlelight but overall between FEMA and all of the mutual assistance that came in from the other States from utility companies, it was a much more rapid response, much better coordinated.

I agree with you that our Governor has done a wonderful job. He is there at the emergency operations center up there in Tallahassee, he has toured around the State. I know we have been in touch with him about some snafus. Between FEMA and Governor Bush, the problems get resolved very quickly.

Mr. FOLEY. Let me expand on one thing, if I could. You mentioned the persons that are part-timers. That is a very significant new part of FEMA. From around this great country of ours, there are people standing ready in reserve, that have other jobs, other lives. They may be firefighters, nurses. You mentioned those trades. They are ready to receive the call at a moment's notice. A bag is already packed in their home. They get the call. I met several of them in Punta Gorda. They are coming from Oregon, Washington State, Texas, you name it. These are people that give up 2 weeks of their own lives to come help, aid and assist, not as a volunteer, they are paid for their 2 weeks, but they leave their own homes to come provide the relief, which

means the Federal Government does not have to have all these full-time employees.

That was one of the most incredible things I had seen. They had set up a MASH unit in the parking lot because we lost all three hospitals in Punta Gorda. Those people were in there that were medical doctors, surgeons that came from their communities to give their 2 weeks. It is just one of those things that you realize we are not in this world alone no matter what problems we face. This country rises to the challenge and the people that are part of this great Nation are up to the challenge of remedying whatever is thrown in our way.

I want to thank the gentlewoman for the chance to discuss, and I know our good colleague from Florida (Mr. FEENEY) is here. I thank the gentlewoman for the opportunity to be part of the special order tonight.

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. I thank the gentleman for being here. I yield to the distinguished gentleman from Orlando (Mr. FEENEY).

Mr. FEENEY. I thank the gentlewoman for organizing this hour and our colleague from Florida (Mr. FOLEY) whose district really took the brunt of both the one-two punch from hurricanes one and two. My district fortunately is a little bit more inland for the most part although I represent from Kennedy Space Center up to Daytona Beach on the beach. We also got hit with a one-two punch. By the time the storm hit us, it was significantly diluted from, say, where the first storm hit Punta Gorda but it was still significant. We got hurt bad. We had people without power for a week. We had an enormous amount of damage done, trees and debris all over, kids lost a week of school. But what is remarkable as you live through the awesome fury of Mother Nature is how resilient the people of Florida and their leaders have been in this response to these two disasters that have really hurt us very badly.

I want to share an experience. One of the things that I did after the first hurricane is to take a little tour with our sheriff of Orange County, Sheriff Kevin Beary. Senator BILL NELSON joined us on that tour with some other local public officials. I will never forget going to a mobile home area that had been mandatorily evacuated, but there was a gentleman that decided to send his family out. He was going to ride out the storm. Within the first 5 minutes of 130, 120-mile-an-hour winds, the entire roof of his mobile home blew off. Within the next 5 minutes, most of the walls had blown off. He only survived the storm because he was able to take all of the food out of his refrigerator and pull the door shut. I guarantee you by the time Frances came around, that same gentleman had evacuated what was left of his mobile home.

One of the lessons that we have learned is that if people will listen to their leaders as a disaster comes

through, we are getting much better at predicting the path of hurricanes. Obviously they change their minds at the last minute and you can never know for sure, but it is an enormous amount of help in a State like Florida. We have got only a couple of major arteries, transportation arteries and interstates that people can evacuate on. If everybody from Palm Beach, Broward and Dade County decided to leave within the same 2 hours, we would have nothing but a parking lot for a week on I-95, for example. What we have learned to do is evacuate in stages as our intelligence becomes better and because of that, we are talking about tens of billions of dollars lost, but thankfully we are not talking about thousands or even hundreds of lives lost in large part because of our great Governor Jeb Bush and the leadership he has shown. We can eventually clean up the streets, the debris, we can rebuild the buildings and we can replace most of the property that has been lost over time.

We will rebuild a healthy, thriving, economic Florida, although it will take time but obviously if you make a decision that costs you your life, that is a decision you can never recover from. The casualties given the awesome fury that these storms have invoked on Florida so far have been thankfully, and we thank the Lord for this, have been thankfully relatively minor, especially considering some of the storms in the past.

One of the great things that we have learned to do at the National Hurricane Center is to do a much better job in long-term forecasts, meaning 4- or 5-day forecasts in terms of where these hurricanes are going. It is the reason that we can plan, it is the reason we can evacuate, it is the reason we can board up the proper pieces of property. It is the reason that we can get people into safety. It is the reason that we can get supplies in before the storm hits rather than waiting for weeks afterwards. It has obviously saved not only a lot of lives, but it has done a great job in reducing the property destruction and it has stopped aggravating an already frustrated group of Floridians throughout the State in virtually every county that has been touched one way or another by this incredible storm.

□ 2130

The 5-day forecast is run out of the Naval Operations Center in Norfolk, and they have done a terrific job in making sure that we can define as narrowly as possible which areas are most likely to be hit by the storm. And as Craig Fugate, the Director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management, observed, "All Floridians should welcome the increased awareness that the 5-day forecast has provided." We are grateful for that.

The other thing that I did immediately after the storm was to call the sheriffs in our area. I happened to be at the Emergency Operations Center in

Tallahassee on 9/11, the day the terrorists attacked. I spent that day as the Speaker of the House of Florida with Governor Jeb Bush and other leaders as we made decisions about how to respond to attacks that we did not know when they would end. We did not know whether Florida might be a target as well that morning on 9/11.

But what I learned there that day is, all of the private agencies, from Red Cross and other charitable organizations, from the Federal agencies, including FEMA, from all of our departments at the State level, transportation, health, we have learned remarkably to respond in a regional and Statewide way to disasters that heretofore, before Andrew, were really thought to be a local problem by and large.

And it is the remarkable coordination by all levels of Government and agencies within the Government that not only hopefully will help us with these nature-ordained disasters but will help us deter and respond, if we ever should need to, to manmade attacks, namely terrorism.

I want to tell the Members that FEMA has done a much better job, as the gentlewoman was just saying with the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY). In the aftermath of Andrew, we had literally weeks where we did not have certain equipment, certain supplies, certain emergency necessities.

In this situation, that has not been the case, with the exception of power. In some cases, we have had people down for a week or two without power. That is an enormously challenging, frustrating, maddening experience. I can tell my colleagues when it is 110 degrees outside, and the kids are hot, and they do not have the ability to go anywhere, to relax, to take a cool shower, it is very difficult to function.

But with the exception of power, we have had, within a day or two for the most part, gas supplies back up and running. We have been able to get the debris cleared up in the roads so people could get to and from their shopping centers to buy fresh food, to replenish supplies. So the response in Central Florida has really been amazing.

Already FEMA assistance in Florida has reached more than \$162 million as of today. Approximately \$100 million of that is in emergency housing, people that literally would not have any shelter if it was not for the work of FEMA. Everywhere I went, my sheriffs, my local law enforcement, my local fire chiefs, my local mayors and county commissioners all remarked that FEMA was giving them everything that was humanly possible to provide in a fairly organized and reasonable manner, and they were very grateful.

One of the issues that has already been touched on by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. KELLER) when he was first here was, in the aftermath of Andrew, we had really had a crisis. We had 11 property and casualty, i.e. homeowners' insurance, go bankrupt. Even

State Farm in Florida literally went belly up. And only because of the good graces of the other 49 State Farms in the various States decided to bail out the State Farm program were they able to pay claims and stay in business.

If, in Florida, we lost all of our property and casualty market, that is, if insurers no longer wanted to write homeowners' insurance policies, Americans everywhere need to be aware of what the effect would be on Florida's economy and ultimately on the United States' economy.

The truth of the matter is that real estate is one of our key economic drivers in Florida. We do not have a big manufacturing base like many States in the Midwest, for example. But we have an awful lot of thriving commercial and homeownership in the real estate area, and it is one of the things that drives not just the Florida economy but ripples and has a positive effect on the entire U.S. economy.

If we do not have the ability to have insurance, lenders will not lend to buy property. Not only will the lenders and the mortgage brokers and mortgage bankers go out of business, but the people that work for title companies will go out of business. People that build houses, subcontractors, people that build pools, people that sell lumber, people that survey property, we would literally have dozens of industries wiped out potentially for a significant period of time.

As a consequence, we did a couple of things that were very important. It is the reason, after two horrible storms, the Florida insurance property and casualty market is still relatively healthy. It would not have been true if we had not done some of these reforms.

One is, we provided a catastrophic policy that all companies are obligated to pay into to prepare for an event like this. That catastrophic insurance has only used about half of its reserves at the last count, which means that we are still able to function and hopefully the insurance market will still stay relatively healthy.

We upgraded all of our building codes. A building permit to build a new home, especially in coastal areas, means that one has to have a seriously upgraded plan in civil engineering that will protect their property from most winds below 100 or 110 miles an hour. Mobile homes, before the Andrew event, often were put together in a very cheap and slipshod manner, and they literally were just standing like a house of cards on a concrete floor.

We now tie down those buildings. We now make sure that they are much better produced and manufactured and secured in a way that most of the mobile homes that were built after Hurricane Andrew, in 1993, survived the storm in relatively good shape. So we are very grateful for that.

The last thing that I wanted to mention before I turn it back to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE) is that all of us have

some unique damages here. I have a lot of ferneries and nurseries as part of the key agricultural businesses in Congressional District 24. Under the Department of Agriculture's emergency plan to help farmers and agricultural leaders through a disaster like this, if they have a product that is consumed, they are eligible for some relief.

We are trying, with the good work of the gentleman from Florida (Mr. PUTNAM); of the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY); of the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG), the Committee on Appropriations chairman, to see to it that we cannot get some relief for folks that produce the ferneries and the nurseries because they are just as severely impacted by the potential loss of all of their income.

The last thing that I wanted to mention is that, right before I came up here, this Saturday, I spent the better part of the mid morning with Jim Kennedy, the Center Director at Kennedy Space Center. I will tell the Members that we believe that Kennedy has had about \$120 to \$140 million worth of damages at this point. There are some 14,000 workers that have been off work that started back to work today. They are enthusiastic. They are determined that we are going to continue the leading manned space flight in the history of the world.

Fortunately, the three shuttle orbiters that were all there at the Center at the time were safely preserved in their buildings. All Kennedy Space Center personnel are safe and sound. But there have been a couple buildings seriously damaged, including the famous Vehicle Assembly Building.

Until a few years ago, the largest indoor-contained building in the world, this is where the Space Shuttle components are assembled and then moved to eventually the launch pad. By the way, the launch pads, gratefully, are also preserved intact. But over an acre of the south wall, 4-foot-by-16-foot aluminum panels have blown off, including part that make up the beautiful American flag, which is probably about the size of two or three football fields. So this is going to need to be repaired. It is going to take some significant time.

The Thermal Protection System Facility lost half of its roof. It is the place where the outside tiles and the thermal blankets inside protect the Shuttle crew from the intense heat, and literally the top of the building was peeled off like a can opener.

The Florida Space Authority was asked immediately after the storm whether it had any room to possibly continue the production of these very critical tiles for return to flight on a timely schedule and the blankets, and thanks to Winston Scott, the Executive Director of the Florida Space Authority, within seconds, he told Jim Kennedy that absolutely they were going to be able to use the facility that the Florida Space Authority had.

Within 3 or 4 hours, components of the tile and the blanket manufacturing

and processing team was moving into this new facility. So we had very little interruption in what could have been a very significant challenge.

Finally, the diligence of the men and women in the Kennedy Space Center team, including NASA and the private contractors, has made this such that, like a lot of us, we are going to have some damages to repair. We are going to have some streets to clean. We are going to have some buildings to put back in place. But, fortunately, in my district, the Kennedy Space Center came through with the type of harm that could be fixed, fixed very rapidly, and we are anxious to get back to work and get back to normal in Florida.

The last thing I will say is, I thank the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE) for her leadership here, but we know, having been through two of these now just in the last month, that our thoughts and our prayers are with the folks in the Panhandle of Florida, the folks in Alabama, the folks in New Orleans. We are thinking about them.

And if there is anything good that comes out of these horrible events, it is the way we bond together as communities and as families. I do not think I will ever forget teaching my two small boys, Tommy, who is 12, and Sean, who is 6, as we literally pulled out mattresses from some of the other bedrooms. We pulled them into Mom and my room. We were there with our blankets and pillows. We had our transistor radios. The power was, of course, out. We had a cooler, and we had everything that we needed as a family there during about an hour and a half of real horror during Charley.

But families bond. Communities bond. States bond, and we are grateful to the people of America for thinking about and helping Floridians.

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Without a doubt, Mr. Speaker.

Reclaiming my time, the gentleman was in the State legislature, and he had mentioned this, the change in the State building code. And it was very difficult to pass because it did raise the cost of home building in Florida. And I remember that, at the time, and I am sure his constituents complained also, it was causing the cost of home construction to go up, and the builders were very upset, too.

As he looks around his district, I am sure he can differentiate the homes that were built to the newer, higher wind codes as opposed to the older homes, where the wind actually came in and did the substantial amount of damage. And in retrospect, I am sure that all those people who had to pay a couple hundred dollars more, and it did end up being a couple of hundred dollars more, are very glad that Florida did impose stricter building codes.

And it was a tough sell at the time, as I remember, but it truly was as a result of Hurricane Andrew, but also it was because, when a hurricane comes, Florida is usually the first place that it hits.

Mr. FEENEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, if the gentlewoman will yield.

I have a friend who is a civil engineer, and his primary job is to certify each and every set of plans, which is now required since the 1993 changes. I remember asking him at one point, because he designs dozens or hundreds of homes, Why would he have to certify each set of new plans for each new home? Why could he not just certify a model? Would that not be a lot less expensive, cheaper? And his answer was that every location and every building is a little bit different and that, absent this, some day we may regret that we did not require the diligence that the gentlewoman is talking about. That is in the design stage.

Obviously, we required more substantial materials in places. We required storm shutters in certain areas. We have allowed those people to take discounts from their insurance if they would go out and purchase storm shutters. All of that investment was some of the best money ever spent by individual home buyers and home builders in Florida, and I think we are all grateful that we changed, and we were adaptable, we were flexible after Andrew.

There will be lessons learned from Charley and Frances and Ivan, but thanks to her leadership and the policymakers that are forward thinking in Florida, I think we will be in even better shape the next time we face one of these horrible events.

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the other thing that I wanted to share with the gentleman is, just before I came down to the floor, I was handed a list of agricultural losses, and these were compiled obviously from the very hardworking members of the agricultural industry.

And the loss for the fern industry, which I know is very large in the gentleman's area, was anywhere from 65 to 75 million. So, as we proceed with a supplemental bill to assist those who were devastated by the storm, certainly, we are hopeful that we will be able to help out not only the nursery industry, the ferns, but I have a large dairy industry in my area. And so we want to make sure that we are able to help so many of the very hardworking members of the agriculture and aquaculture industry, too.

Mr. FEENEY. Right, Mr. Speaker.

And again, we appreciate her leadership on that. As I took the helicopter ride, we deliberately went over some of the nurseries and ferneries, and they have a lot of glass and plastic buildings that they use to soak up the sun and provide the right amount of water. They do a terrific job, but they have been devastated in many respects. And they are sort of caught in the middle. If they are a typical business, they are eligible for a very low-interest Small Business Administration loan if they are subject to a disaster attack. If one is an agricultural farmer that grows products for consumption, they are

covered by emergency processes in the Department of Agriculture's contingency budget.

□ 2145

But if you grow ferns or other nursery products because your product cannot be consumed, you are at this point considered eligible for neither business assistance nor for agriculture assistance. So it is one of those things that we will work with the administration on to try to fix as rapidly as possible.

I yield back to the gentlewoman.

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, when we remember Hurricane Frances, we have to remember that it was so large that at one point it obstructed nearly the entire State of Florida on satellite views. The hurricane actually was estimated to measure twice the size of Texas.

As I went around my district, and my district goes from the coast, from the west coast to just bordering on the gentleman from Florida's district in the Orlando area, as I went around my district after the hurricane struck, I would see homes and stop and talk to the owners. It is amazing, as I mentioned to him, the difference between the older homes and the newer homes. The newer homes did not sustain as much damage because they were built to better safety codes; they were better designed, higher wind loads for the roof. All of those facets made those homes sustain the storm a whole lot better.

While Frances may have ripped roofs off stores and homes, flattened gas station canopies and slammed moored boats against each other, it did not dampen the spirits of the people of Florida. I had a mother come up to me and say, you know, it has always been difficult to turn off the TV, to get the kids to turn off the TV. She said, I never thought I would say this, but we were able to have the television off, and we actually played some board games. She found this to be a great time to get closer to her children. She now has her power restored, and I am sure that television is back on. But overall, people found this a time of great reflection and a time to pray that their friends and neighbors and that their own family members would remain safe.

Mr. Speaker, there is still a lot of repairing that needs to be done. I know, as I was driving Saturday evening around my district, there were piles of debris along the road. And right now, there are still some 213,000 Floridians still without power. When we put that into perspective, there are some people who do not have a home anymore. They do not have the family heirlooms; they do not even have photographs, because all of those were destroyed in the storm. So people can put this lack of electricity into perspective, because in Florida it gets hot and very, very muggy; but at least they still have their homes. A woman pointed that out

to me because she had a friend in another part of the State who lost everything, absolutely everything.

Mr. Speaker, Floridians have hope because they know that we as public servants will not forget them. They know that we will work to the fullest of our abilities to see that they receive the relief that they so desperately need.

I would like to take a moment to certainly applaud FEMA, the SBA, the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, and so many other organizations that have coordinated relief efforts in our State. There is a wonderful group in my district that is called the Christian Contractors of America, and these are very dedicated, skilled workmen who go out and assist people. I had one constituent who had a tree land on her house and somebody misinformed her that FEMA would take care of the tree. Well, FEMA does not go around cutting down trees. But this great group of Christian contractors we were able to call and, without a doubt, they are there to help. They were there long before the storm, helping people, helping people living in substandard housing. I can think of another example where they helped a battered spouse who had all the windows knocked in.

Organizations such as this, certainly the Salvation Army, the Red Cross, all of the church groups that opened up their doors if they had power and they provided food and they provided air-conditioning and they provided shelter and respite, and a place to come where the community could all come together.

Mr. Speaker, we must answer the needs of Florida and other States. It is not just Florida that gets hit by hurricanes, as Alabama is about to find out, as North Carolina found out last year. I joke with my sister; she lived in North Carolina in Morehead City and she was tired of all the hurricanes hitting there, so she decided to move down to the panhandle of Florida. Well, guess what? She is about ready to be hit by another hurricane.

All of the members of the Florida delegation, regardless of which party we belong to, do not forget our commitment to our constituents. Florida must be helped, and I am sure that Congress will take action.

IRAQ WATCH

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KLINE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STRICKLAND) is recognized for 60 minutes.

FLOODING IN OHIO

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I was sitting here listening to my colleagues from Florida talking about the disaster that Florida has experienced, and I thought about my own experience in Ohio over the last 2 or 3 days. Ohio is a long way from Florida, but Ohio has been affected, seriously affected by the results of the hurricane, the flood-

ing that has occurred in a number of Ohio counties, which has absolutely been devastating.

In Columbiana County, where I was earlier today, one small township, it is estimated that they have public damages of between \$400,000 and \$500,000. Many roads have been completely washed out. The day before yesterday, I was in another county in my district, Belmont County, a little town called Ness, and in that community there were homes that were completely destroyed and demolished, homes where people will never be able to return to live because they were so terribly damaged. And the damage was caused, in large part, by rain that occurred as a result of the hurricanes that had come in and through Florida.

So it is true that we are very sympathetic with the good people of Florida who have suffered so deeply. We are happy that help and hope is on the way for them. But just this day, I faxed a letter to the White House asking the President to act expeditiously on a request for a Federal declaration which has been sent to him by Ohio's Governor, Bob Taft, asking that these communities in Ohio which have been so terribly, terribly affected be also declared a Federal disaster area, so that appropriate Federal resources can be made available to them.

We need FEMA to come in, to provide temporary housing. I spoke just the day before yesterday with a lady nearly 80 years old who lived by herself, whose total monthly income was \$655 a month. She also was receiving, I think, \$70 per month in food stamps. But her home had been literally destroyed. Her medicine costs were very high, and she was asking what kind of help would be available. And I told her that as soon as the offices opened this morning, Monday morning, that I would be on the phone to the office of FEMA here in D.C. When I contacted them this morning and asked about the request that Governor Taft had submitted for one of the counties, for Columbiana County in Ohio, we were told that the request was under consideration.

But the fact is that we can wait no longer. There are people who are living in cars. There are children who are being kept in fold-out campers. People are without water. We are concerned about the spread of disease. The bottom line is people are suffering terribly in Ohio. I call upon the administration, the President, to recognize what people are going through there.

The geographic area is much smaller than that which was affected in Florida, obviously; but I would contend that there is no one in Florida that has suffered any more than some of the people that I represent. Because when you have lost all that you have, all of your material possessions, when you have no clothing, no personal items, no furniture, when your home has been destroyed and you are with nothing, you are in desperate circumstances; and those are the circumstances that exist

across part of Ohio tonight. I am hopeful that by tomorrow I will get a positive response from the President and the White House, and my hope is the help from the Federal level will be flowing into Ohio just as it is flowing into Florida.

I would also like to note, Mr. Speaker, that even the Red Cross has diverted so much of their personnel and their equipment and their resources to Florida that I am afraid that many of my constituents will fall between the cracks, so to speak, and that their terrible plight will not be expeditiously and properly recognized by our Federal Government.

IRAQ

Having said that, Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight, and I will be joined later by some of my colleagues, to talk about Iraq and what is happening in Iraq. This is an effort that we began literally several months ago, myself and some of my colleagues, coming here to the floor to talk about the policies that we are pursuing in Iraq and trying to point out some of the concerns that we have.

I would just begin our Iraq Watch tonight by sharing an editorial from the Columbus Dispatch, which is the capital city newspaper in Ohio. The Columbus Dispatch has been publishing since 1871. They ran an editorial this past Saturday in observance of the anniversary of September 11. I see my friend, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT), has joined me. Before I yield to him, I would just like to share some thoughts from the Columbus Dispatch because I think they are very relevant to our discussions here regarding Iraq.

The editorial is entitled, "Remember Everything." It begins this way: "Three years ago, 3,000 people were murdered in coordinated terrorist attacks in New York City, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania. Yet, the man who orchestrated those atrocities remains free. For what he did, Osama bin Laden should be dead or in U.S. custody. No evidence suggests that he is dead, and he is not in custody. Because he remains free, extraordinary security precautions surround today's Ohio State football game." And, as I said, this is an editorial that appeared last Saturday when Ohio State was playing Marshall University.

So the editorial says: "These security precautions will surround today's Ohio State football game, considered a terrorist target because 100,000 spectators will be gathered in the heart of a State that is key to the Presidential election."

The editorial continues: "Because bin Laden is at liberty, election and law enforcement officials nationwide are busy planning extra security at polling places on November 2. Because bin Laden has not been captured, the Nation's Capital and national monuments, including the Statue of Liberty, have been militarized and fortified. The Bush administration can claim that bin Laden and his cohorts are on

the run, but bin Laden and his cohorts plausibly can claim the opposite. All bin Laden has to do is point to the armed men and surveillance helicopters around Ohio Stadium."

□ 2200

How did the destruction of bin Laden slip so far down the Nation's to-do list, the Columbus Dispatch asks? Why are the bulk of U.S. military and intelligence assets tied up in Iraq, which pose only a hypothetical threat, while pursuit of the man who slaughtered thousands of Americans on their own soil is on the back burner? Where is the anger, asks the Columbus Dispatch? Where is the anger?

The September 11 victims were not killed by a natural disaster, such as a hurricane, which cannot be brought to justice and against which rage is futile. They were killed by a man. A man can be made to pay a price. Why has he not paid?

The Columbus Dispatch continues in their editorial. This is the question that President Bush should be answering today and tomorrow and every day until November 2. And the Columbus Dispatch asks, where is Senator JOHN KERRY, who loudly proclaims his determination to strike back at any attack on the United States? The attack has occurred. Where is his pledge to make apprehension of bin Laden dead or alive job number one?

The Dispatch continues. Would bin Laden's death eliminate terrorism? Well, of course not. Quick victory over this kind of nihilism and barbarism is impossible, but every day that bin Laden remains free is a defeat for justice and for civilization. His continued existence, his ability to poison a seemingly impotent world, incites and encourages his followers and imitators.

Now, this is what we have heard from the heartland of America, from Columbus, Ohio, from the Columbus Dispatch newspaper, and I would just point out that the President told us, Mr. Speaker, at one time soon after the September 11 attacks, when bin Laden had been identified as the person responsible for attacking our country, the President told us he can run but he cannot hide. But the fact is that he ran, and thus far he has hidden successfully, and somewhere on God's Earth tonight bin Laden is planning the next attack upon our country.

Tonight, now, I ask my colleagues in this Chamber, why did we divert our attention from Afghanistan and from Osama bin Laden and focus on Iraq? At the Republican National Convention in New York, they talked a lot about September 11. The President gave a 63-minute speech and never once did he mention Osama bin Laden. Never once did the President mention the man who is responsible for attacking our country and who today, tonight, is free planning the next attack. I think the American people deserve an answer to that.

Why, after all of the resources that we have spent, some \$200 billion, the

over 1,000 lives that have been lost, the nearly 7,000 soldiers that have been wounded, why do we not know where bin Laden is and why have we not captured him and why have we diverted our attention from the effort to find this man? He is the enemy of America. He is the one who attacked us, and yet, somehow, his name is not uttered by our President anymore, and there seems to be no real attention directed toward bringing him to justice.

Now, the fact is we heard a lot about Saddam Hussein.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield.

Mr. STRICKLAND. I yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. DELAHUNT. If I can, because the reality is that long before September 11, this White House, this President, this Vice President, whose picture was on the November 2003 edition of Newsweek, had an obsession with Iraq, and I would submit that the best evidence of that obsession is revealed in a book by a noted journalist by the name of Ron Suskind, who sat down with the former Secretary of Treasury, Paul O'Neill, and did, if you will, an overview of Secretary O'Neill's experience in the Bush-Cheney White House.

As Secretary O'Neill indicated, he was taken aback by the first National Security Council meeting, and he attended those in his capacity as the Secretary of Treasury, that was held one week after the President was inaugurated, and it quickly turned to the issue of Iraq. There were no threats emanating from Iraq. There were no statements emanating from the brutal regime of Saddam Hussein relative to an attack on the United States or any of our allies. In fact, if you remember, the Secretary of State himself, Colin Powell, later on some time in February described the Iraqi military in terms that turned out to be absolutely accurate, they were forthright, they had been significantly degraded, but one week after the President was sworn in the dominating subject of the first National Security Council meeting was Iraq.

Then subsequently, on February 27, Secretary of the Treasury Paul O'Neill relates at another National Security Council meeting that the Vice President, this gentleman here, DICK CHENEY, had a map spread across a conference table where there were discussions about the divvying up of oil fields and concessions among private corporations and Nations, presumably our allies. That was February 27 of 2001. So right from the beginning it was this obsession about Iraq.

Now I do not know and I am not going to suggest what the motivations were, but it was about Iraq from the beginning. I have posed this question to individuals in the administration. No one has ever denied the accuracy of those anecdotes that were related by the former Secretary of Treasury, a person whose integrity is beyond reproach, who stated it clearly and un-

equivocally. So we had this proclivity, this propensity, this obsession with Iraq.

Then, of course, 9/11 came, and the terrorism czar at that time, Richard Clarke, made the statement that after listening to the Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld and Under Secretary Wolfowitz he was aghast because he interpreted their immediate response as an opportunity to intervene militarily in Iraq, as opposed to really deal with those who not only had visited probably the most horrific act in our lifetime upon the United States, and clearly, what we have seen is a diversion of attention from those who were the proximate cause of a national tragedy that occurred on September 11 of 2001. We diverted all of our attention, most of our resources to Iraq, rather than dealing with the genuine, accurate war on terror.

Mr. STRICKLAND. It is almost incomprehensible that the person who was responsible for attacking our country, who has claimed responsibility, who has boasted in claiming that responsibility is a person who is free tonight. He ran and he hid, and the President does not even utter his name. It is as though we have forgotten that the real enemy, the real architect of the attack upon our country was Osama bin Laden. He has been referred to as Osama bin Forgotten, and it is quite sad to me that we have not been able to bring to justice the leading terrorist in this world.

As we contemplate a possible terror attack on this country, there has been discussions that it may happen before the election, that it may happen around the inauguration of the next President. We are not afraid that that attack is going to be directed and masterminded by Saddam Hussein. He is in jail. We are concerned about al Qaeda. We are concerned about the terror network that was established by Osama bin Laden. We are concerned about Osama bin Laden and his effect.

Just this week we heard from our military leaders in Afghanistan that they believe Osama bin Laden is actively calling the shots, even today, and yet, as I repeat, during the Republican Convention in New York, with all of the discussion of September 11, it was as if the person responsible for September 11 was unknown. The President did not utter his name during a 63-minute speech.

This is the man that we should be going after. He is the one responsible for killing nearly 3,000 of our citizens. He is the one that is heading up the al Qaeda terror network. He is free tonight somewhere on this Earth. We do not know for sure, but I want to tell my colleague I think we would have had this man in custody if we had not diverted attention and resources and our intelligence apparatus away from the hunting of Osama bin Laden to Iraq.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, when we can focus on Osama

bin Laden and al Qaeda, but as the President has done, to suggest that the world is safer because of our intervention in Iraq is absolutely, to quote a very prominent Republican conservative pundit, absurd. It is just simply absurd.

Mr. STRICKLAND. Every day, sadly, tragically, we are losing soldiers in Iraq. It is almost as if it is no longer news when we lose one or two or three or seven at a time. It is almost as if we have become numb to that reality. We are up to well over 1,000 now. Senator MCCAIN has indicated that he thinks we could be in Iraq for 10 to 20 years.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Again, and that is a very dangerous scenario, not just the observation by Senator MCCAIN but the fact that as time moves on, it becomes part of the regular order. Yeah, we lost seven Marines just recently in Fallujah. It is on the front page. Over an extended period of time it will end up on page 2 and then page 5 and page 7, and because not many of us are sharing in the sacrifice tragically we become immune to the real costs of this debacle in Iraq.

It is simply not just costing us hundreds of billions of dollars, but it is costing us thousands of American lives and the impact on American families. I know that my colleague and I, as we visit our districts, meet constituents that have lost loved ones in Iraq, and that on a personal level is most painful, but the danger is that we as a people collectively put it in another place in our minds, in our experience.

□ 2215

You know, our policy in Iraq can only be described as a failure. We failed. We went to Iraq based on false claims. We failed to find weapons of mass destruction. We clearly demonstrated that there was no evidence of any operational relationship between al Qaeda and Saddam Hussein. That was confirmed by the 9/11 independent commission. The administration failed to create broad international support for the effort.

The truth is we are there alone now. Yes, the British are there, even though a majority of the British people are opposed to the policy and opposed to the war. But other than the British, yes, there are token forces there, but we are carrying the brunt.

Mr. STRICKLAND. If I can speak to that issue.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Of course.

Mr. STRICKLAND. The President frequently says we have this coalition; and it is true that there are a number of countries, for one reason or another, some of them maybe with very noble reasons, who support us in our policy there. But the fact is that we have somewhere around 135,000, 135,000 American troops there. The next country with the largest number of troops is Great Britain; and they have, I believe, less than 6,500. Most of the other countries have a few hundred troops.

It is the American troops that is the target. We are losing the lives. We are

paying the bill. About \$200 billion thus far.

Mr. DELAHUNT. By the way, Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will continue to yield, I find it very interesting that the President and DICK CHENEY, who according to this headline in Newsweek sold the war to the President and within the administration, keep referring to the vote on the \$87 billion as somehow demonstrating a lack of support by Senator KERRY for our troops.

Does the gentleman remember during the course of that debate that the President of the United States threatened to veto the \$87 billion?

Mr. STRICKLAND. If we paid for it.

Mr. DELAHUNT. No, if we insisted that at some time in the future the Iraqi government paid back to the United States taxpayer a portion, a portion of that \$87 billion. The White House insisted on a gift, a giveaway, if you will, of American tax dollars, never to be repaid to the American people.

Mr. STRICKLAND. If I could reclaim my time, Mr. Speaker, during that debate on the \$87 billion, the vast majority of the people in this country, according to public opinion polls, felt that we should provide assistance in the form of a grant, a grant that would be paid back to our citizens once Iraq was stabilized. And the gentleman is right, the President said that if we did that that he would veto the bill.

Mr. DELAHUNT. The President did not want to make a loan; he wanted to make a gift.

Mr. STRICKLAND. That is right.

Mr. DELAHUNT. And the rest of the world, in terms of their dollars representing their taxpayers, insisted on a loan. It is only the United States of America that provided a gift, not a loan, but a gift, to the interim Iraqi government to begin the process of reconstruction.

Now, again, I think we all share the view that there is a responsibility on the part of the United States to assist. But why a gift? Why a giveaway? And the President said that if we made it a loan, he would veto it. So, clearly, the Republican majority here managed to secure enough votes, both here and in the Senate, to make a gift rather than insist on collateral.

Remember the Under Secretary of Defense, Paul Wolfowitz, when he promised the American people that the cost of the reconstruction of Iraq would be paid for with Iraqi resources based on their huge oil reserves? Does the gentleman remember that?

Mr. STRICKLAND. Oh, absolutely.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Yet, when the time came, that was a promise that this Vice President and this President reneged on.

It is the American people that are building roads in Iraq, it is the American people that are building affordable housing in Iraq, it is the American people that are building hospitals in Iraq, it is the American people that are

building brand-new ports in Iraq, it is the American people that are providing practically universal health care coverage in Iraq, it is the American people that are funding jobs in Iraq; and they are never going to get paid back.

How about doing that for the American people, President Bush and Vice President CHENEY?

Mr. STRICKLAND. Well, as someone said, it does not make sense for us to be opening firehouses in Iraq while we are closing firehouses and laying off firefighters in this country.

But the fact is this \$87 billion vote is being used in the most political way, and there have been accusations that somehow when Senator KERRY opposed that, that he was opposing body armor for our troops. I would just like to point out something that I have shared with my friends here in this Chamber before. The war started in March of 2003. We did not have that vote on the \$87 billion until months after the war started. Our troops were initially sent into battle without body armor. And that was a decision made by Secretary Rumsfeld and ultimately the responsibility of the President as the Commander in Chief. We sent our troops into battle without body armor.

Now, that is a fact that cannot be disputed. And it took the Pentagon one full year, from March of 2003 to March of 2004, to provide me with a letter stating that finally, after a full year, our troops had been equipped with body armor.

I questioned how many of our troops were unnecessarily injured or wounded or how many lost their lives simply because this administration sent them into combat without body armor. That was not a money problem; it was a planning problem. And the letters that I received from Secretary Rumsfeld and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Myers, verified that it was a supply problem. They did not order that equipment in a timely manner. Months passed leading up to this war when those orders could have been placed. That body armor could have been available at the time the war started, but it took 12 full months for this administration to make sure that our troops were fully protected with body armor.

And even tonight, now, Mr. Speaker, we have troops in Iraq driving around in Humvees that are not armored in a way that will provide them at least some protection from these roadside bombs that are maiming and killing so many of our soldiers on a daily basis.

Mr. DELAHUNT. It is interesting, and I think it is important that we remind ourselves and others that, yes, we are members of the minority party. We are Democrats. But this is, in many respects, and it is our concerns I am referring to, they are bipartisan in nature.

I read something just recently where, again going back to the cost of the war, that \$87 billion that the President keeps referring to that he insisted on

being a giveaway as opposed to a loan, Bob Barr, who served in this House and who was probably one of the most conservative Members in this institution, in this branch during his service here, observed that in the midst of the war on terror and a \$500 billion deficit, Bush proposes sending space ships to Mars.

This really underscores also the folly of what we are doing in terms of driving up our own deficits that will burden generations of Americans and that are structural in nature, which means that something catastrophic is waiting for us unless we address them. And, clearly, we have not seen any response from this White House about addressing them.

But in addition to that, a recent September 10, 2004, article by Doug Bandow, who is a senior Fellow at the Cato Institute and served as a special assistant to President Reagan and was a visiting Fellow at the Heritage Foundation, had this to say: "Bush's foreign policy record is as bad as his domestic scorecard. The administration correctly targeted the Taliban in Afghanistan, but quickly neglected that nation, which is in danger of falling into chaos. The Taliban is resurgent, violence has flared, drug production has burgeoned, and elections have been postponed."

"Iraq, already in chaos, is no conservative triumph. The endeavor in social engineering on a grand scale, a war of choice launched on erroneous grounds, has turned into a disastrously expensive neocolonial burden. Saddam Hussein had no weapons of mass destruction, contrary to administration claims, and no operational relationship with al Qaeda, contrary to administration insinuations. U.S. officials bungled the operation, misjudging everything from the financial cost to the troop requirement. Sadly, the Iraq debacle has undercut the fight against terrorism."

Let me repeat that: "Sadly, the Iraq debacle has undercut the fight against terrorism."

Just recently, by the way, the Institute for Strategic Studies, again a conservative think tank, in a recent study warned that the Iraq operation has spurred recruiting by smaller terrorist groups around the world.

Now, we talked earlier about Osama bin Laden and al Qaeda. Well, the reality is that it is like the parable in the New Testament about the fishes and the loaves: they are everywhere. The incidence of terrorism in this world has increased dramatically. We saw what happened recently and again tragically in Russia.

Mr. STRICKLAND. If the gentleman will allow me to reclaim my time, it seems, and I think this is verified by the September 11 Commission, that al Qaeda has gone from being an identifiable group to becoming a philosophy and an idea and a movement. And the fact is our policies have spread terror around the world. We now have

Taliban/al Qaeda operatives in Iraq. There is no evidence that they were there before we invaded that country.

There are now huge cities in Iraq referred to as "no-go zones," where our troops cannot enter those cities. They are under the control of al Qaeda and Taliban operatives. Huge geographic areas of Iraq that we liberated, supposedly, are now under the control of terrorists, terrorists that prior to our invasion of Iraq were not in that country. We have created a breeding ground for those who hate us.

□ 2230

We may be there 10 years, 20 years, no one knows. How many more deaths are going to result from these failed policies? We have already had over a thousand. Ohio lost two soldiers last week, a 19-year-old man and a 36-year-old man. How many more?

Now we stand here and talk about this. Some may wonder why go over history, why talk about past failings and past circumstances.

Mr. DELAHUNT. To learn from them.

Mr. STRICKLAND. Because the same people who have brought us to where we are tonight, who have created this debacle that we face in Iraq, the same people who have made the decisions which have led to this terrible tragedy and loss of life and horrible injuries, these same people want to remain in charge of the decisionmaking apparatus of this government. I think it is fair to ask: What will they do next? They have acted in the most naive manner. The Vice President and others indicated that we would be welcomed into Iraq.

Just yesterday we had helicopters that fired on a group of Iraqis that were celebrating around a dysfunctional piece of U.S. military equipment. Many of those people laughing and dancing around were children. They were children. You could see their pictures, they could not have been more than 10 or 12 years of age. What are we doing in Iraq, we are creating hatred toward our government. That hatred is spreading around the world. That does not make us safer.

I believe the President has an obligation to stand up and admit mistakes, but there is a difference between an irrational pursuit of an ideology that is failing. What we need are mature leaders that will act upon a rational basis to secure friends around this world and help us extricate ourselves from these terrible circumstances.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, we have been joined by the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE), and welcome back to Iraq watch. We noted the gentleman's absence last week. And I see the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE) has also joined us, but I want to get back to what I think is important, and that is the bipartisan nature of the criticism of this administration. It would be misleading to those watching us tonight to think this

is a partisan diatribe. It is not that. It is a genuine concern about the direction of this country.

And it is echoed by others. Let me give three quotes. Crossfire host Tucker Carlson said recently, and I think many Americans have observed him on PBS and Crossfire. He said, "I think it is a total nightmare and disaster. I am ashamed that I went against my own instincts in supporting it."

William Buckley, an icon within the conservative movement said, "With the benefit of minute hindsight, Saddam Hussein was not the kind of extraterritorial menace that was assumed by the administration 1 year ago. If I knew then what I know now about what kind of situation we would be in, I would have opposed the war."

I think it is important, too, to quote what I thought was a very courageous statement by a friend of ours, a former colleague who is highly regarded on both sides of the aisle. He was the vice chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and was a leading member of the House Committee on International Relations, and we know him well, is Doug Bereuter.

He sent a letter to his constituents announcing his retirement from Congress. He began by saying, it was a mistake to launch the invasion of Iraq. He said, "As a result, our country's reputation around the world has never been lower and our alliances are weakened. Now we are immersed in a dangerous, costly mess, and there is no easy and quick way to end our responsibilities in Iraq without creating bigger future problems in the region and in general in the Islamic world."

I respect that. More and more we know that our colleagues on both sides of the aisle are expressing their concern.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, one observes today the discussions taking place in the press by members of the Armed Services with respect to whether or not political considerations are involved in whether we can attack or not attack, whether we retreat or do not retreat, whether we engage in collaborative activity with insurgents with regard to the possible upcoming elections, or whether we regard them as criminals to be taken and prosecuted, perhaps even shot and killed.

Those issues do not know a Democratic or a Republican origin. Those young soldiers, and some not so young soldiers from the Guard and Reserve, are not making distinctions between Republican oratory and Democratic accusations with respect to this election. This issue has to be decided on November 2. The people of this Nation have to come to a conclusion electorally as to whether or not they want the present direction to go on or whether they want to move in a new direction.

I contend and I tell Members this as a member of the Committee on Armed Services, a committee on which we do our level best to subsume and submerge our partisan differences, yes,

they come forward, I am not going to pretend otherwise or be so naive to think that can always happen, but the plain fact of the matter is when it comes to our votes, we try to figure out what is in the best interests of this Nation and what is in the best interests of the Armed Services. The question arises publicly now as to whether or not our armed forces have to pay first allegiance to political considerations.

Whether one is a Democrat or a Republican, Democrats and Republicans voted for the resolution that constantly comes up with respect to whether one supports the war or does not support the war. That is no longer an issue. The issue is the direction it has taken since the war commenced, and that is where I feel we have to make a break. This is what has to be decided November 2. We have to make a fundamental decision as to whether we are going to let the chaos and the destruction taking place today continue, the brunt of that chaos and destruction having to be borne by members of the Armed Services.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, what the gentleman said was summed up just recently by a senior American diplomat in Baghdad. Obviously he insisted on anonymity but this is what he said about actually what is happening in Baghdad and Iraq today. "This idea of a functioning democracy here is crazy. We thought there would be a reprieve after sovereignty, but all hell is breaking loose." This is without doubt a debacle. This is the chaos the gentleman referred to. And the sad part of it is despite opposition to the invasion of Iraq, if there had been a coordinated plan, if there had been a relationship between the Department of State and Pentagon rather than just simply the domination of those within the Department of Defense and excluding those that had experience similarly elsewhere in the world, maybe we would not have this problem. But we had Wolfowitz, we had Doug Feith, we had Secretary Rumsfeld who, according to Richard Clarke and others, pushed out the Department of State, would not allow them in at the table to discuss the post major combat phase.

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to yield to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE) but before I do, I would like to say the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE) absolutely spoke the truth when he said this Nation will make a decision on November 2 regarding whether or not they want to tolerate the continuation of our current policy or whether or not they think we should change course.

The President says we either have to stay the course or cut and run. Well, I think there is a third possibility and that is to change course. The fact is if there are mothers and dads listening to us tonight who may feel disconnected from this war, who may feel they have no part of it, they do not know anyone who is participating in it, they do not know anyone who has lost a life or

been seriously injured, but if they have a child, they should listen because if this administration continues its current foreign policy, I believe it will be mandatory that we impose a military draft. We cannot maintain our personnel numbers with this current foreign policy without imposing a draft. We can no longer continue forever to keep our reservists and our national guardsmen on active status. We cannot withdraw soldiers from all over this world simply because of what is happening in Iraq. So every American should be engaged in the same kind of discussion we are having tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE).

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to talk tonight about three types of amnesia that I am afraid are infecting the executive branch's policy, and those three symptoms of amnesia are makings us less safe.

This weekend I went to the VFW Post in Redmond, Washington, where a group was holding a car wash to raise money to send incidentals, CDs and telephones and suntan lotion and the like, to our service personnel in Iraq. The thing that was interesting is the people who were there, including the wives and sisters and fathers of the people who are serving in Iraq, and one woman who lost her son in Iraq who came out to the car wash to help her fallen son's former colleagues in Iraq, and what was amazing to me, while these people are pulling together, there is this kind of amnesia developing to forget the loss and casualties we are suffering in Iraq. It is slipping from page 1 to page 3 to page 12 to outside of our consciousness. Frankly, I think the President could do a better job of reminding us of the loss we are suffering in Iraq rather than trying to belittle it or say it is a minimal thing.

I have heard people argue that a thousand people lost in America is not that many. I just challenge for them to say that if they had been to the car wash and talked to the mother that I did. One person who did not have to die in combat is too many.

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, the first death was too many, and every death that has followed has been too many because for that individual and that individual's loved ones, it will absolutely be the most devastating experience they will ever endure.

□ 2245

I do not think we should develop that type of amnesia.

The second amnesia that I think is very dangerous to us is to some degree the executive branch is developing amnesia about who actually attacked us, which was al Qaeda. You have talked about this earlier, I believe. But we cannot have the Commander in Chief leading us in this war to preserve our security and not identify who the enemy was that actually attacked us and go a year now without identifying the name of the person who is Osama

bin Laden that the President refuses to even say. That lack of leadership has infected to some degree our efforts to track down and cut off al Qaeda.

Let me give you an example in the real world how that is. I found out a week ago that we have more employees in the Department of Treasury tracking down American tourists who go to Cuba than we do Treasury officials trying to cut off the money going to Osama bin Laden. What kind of prioritization is that? Why have we developed amnesia about how deadly al Qaeda is?

Another piece of amnesia. We have loose nukes all over the former Soviet Union, all this fissionable material that we know al Qaeda wants to get. But we cannot get the cooperation of the executive branch to put money into the system we have for vacuuming up those loose nukes and keeping them out of the hands of al Qaeda.

Why has this amnesia happened? It is pretty clear. The executive branch took their eye off the ball of Osama bin Laden and put it on Iraq. And this amnesia is a more dangerous situation rather than a less dangerous one.

Let me just suggest why I think the President has been successful to some degree in conflating Iraq with what happened on September 11. That is, that we have all sort of, I think, gone down a little primrose path calling this the war on terror. I am not sure that is the right nomenclature for us to use for this reason. It is really important to realize who your enemy is. Our enemy is a person and a group, not a tactic. Terror is a tactic. It is not a country, it is not a group, it is not an individual. It is a tactic. Calling this a war on terror frankly is a little bit like calling our response to Pearl Harbor a war on torpedo planes. Torpedo planes were a tactic. They were not the enemy. We need to call this what it is, a war on al Qaeda and a war on some fundamentalist Islamic movements that are way out of the mainstream of Islamic belief in this world and have perverted that faith and taken advantage of it for their nihilistic ends, and that is an enemy we need to keep in our sights.

Mr. DELAHUNT. See, this Vice President has to link the war on terror and the war in Iraq. Even though there is no linkage. That has been confirmed not by partisans here on the floor but by the independent September 11 Commission. Because, if you cannot link the war on terror to the invasion of Iraq, then why did we go into Iraq? For political purposes, you have to create, you have to morph what occurs and what is occurring in Iraq into the overall war on terror, because this is the premise that was used by DICK CHENEY when he sold the war.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. That is the issue that I raised with respect to November 2. Let us face it. No matter who you are in this country, a vote is going to take place on November 2. That man

has to answer and his boss, the President of the United States, has to answer for why in Afghanistan today there is no governmental entity at all other than that which exists under the direct protection of what amounts to a praetorian guard of the United States in Kabul. The rest of the country is under the sway of warlords and the Taliban is resurging, the Taliban is resurging and more opium is being grown, more dope is being sold, more financing for the Taliban is taking place than ever before.

Mr. DELAHUNT. But he is probably one of the most skillful political minds in the country and just recently he made the statement, if you vote for the other candidate you will die. That is basically what he said. A vote for KERRY is a vote for terrorists. Nobody accepts that. But that is the need to make the link, because he was wrong, he cannot admit he was wrong. Do you remember David Kay, who they sent out to learn and to find out where the weapons of mass destruction were, came in front of a Senate committee and said, we were all wrong. This individual, this Vice President, must have blanched because it did not suit his world view, his political agenda.

Mr. INSLEE. There was a very startling occurrence that happened yesterday in this regard. Secretary of State Powell said there was no link to 9/11 to Saddam Hussein. Yet the Vice President continues in this effort.

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friends for joining me for another hour of Iraq Watch. I look forward to continuing this next week.

THE FACE OF THE TERRORIST FOE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, there are, of course, a wide variety of views and opinions on the situation that we now face in Iraq and around the world. I am compelled to come to the floor tonight to talk about one aspect of this, I suppose, not necessarily to take sides in this debate that has been going on for the last hour but to look into the nature of the foe that both we face and much of the civilized world faces. When you look into the face of the foe, of the enemy, what you see is pure, unadulterated evil. That evil manifested itself just a short time ago in a faraway place, in Russia, more specifically in a small community and even more specifically in a school in that community, where people devoted to a cause, to a set of ideas, decided that one way to advance that cause would be to enter this small town in Russia and to take hostage the children and the parents and the teachers in this small school. Because it was the first day of school and as is the custom in this

area, parents and even grandparents will accompany their children to school for the first day of opening festivities. So they knew they would have a large congregation of people, all there to enjoy the day, parents there to encourage their children, children looking back at their parents and grandparents for that encouragement. Something that goes on, of course, an event, an activity that goes on throughout the world in many different countries and in many different ways but essentially that same expression of support and hope and love that we see throughout the world.

These people, acting under the guise of ideology, decided to go in and take these folks hostage, because it would be an act of terror almost unparalleled. In fact, I will say unparalleled in the annals of human history. They did so and hundreds of people died, most of them children. The most innocent among us died horrible deaths because terrorists decided to take an action that they believed would advance their cause. It has not advanced their cause. We know that. The civilized world has reacted in horror and disdain and has in every way imaginable sent the message to those who perpetrated this crime that your cause is not advanced. We see you for what you are. You are, in fact, evil incarnate. Evil does exist on this planet. It prowls. It looks. It strikes. It struck in Russia and hundreds of people today, thousands of people there, millions of people around the world, are in mourning and in grief for what happened.

There will be people who will try to suggest that even though this was a horrible event, the people who perpetrated this had just cause, that they had been ill treated in the past by the government of Russia going back to the czars. Certainly it may be true that there were injustices and that in fact horrible things have happened in the past. But nothing, Mr. Speaker, nothing, nothing that I can conceive of or I think for the most part anyone in the civilized world can conceive of could justify the acts that were taken in Beslan by these terrorists. Nothing can justify that. No amount of rationalization, no amount of historical injustice, nothing can justify the taking of the most innocent lives, not just the taking of their lives but the torture of these innocent human beings for days before the lives were taken. Nothing can justify the horror that was inflicted upon the community in Beslan. Nothing.

My community, the place in which I live, is Littleton, Colorado. Several years ago, we experienced an event of unimaginable horror in our little community. I know what that did when two individuals went into a school, Columbine High School, and killed their fellow students and teachers. I know what happened. I know the kind of trauma that existed and that everyone had to deal with, not just even the parents of the children involved but the

entire community. I know how long it lasted. I know that to this day we have not found a salve that could, in fact, heal those wounds, even to this day. We still gather in April to pay our respects and to remember the dead and to express our condolences to the parents and families of those who survived.

So I know a little bit about the pain that I know exists in this community of Beslan and, of course, in surrounding areas. I know that there are no words, that no one, not Presidents or Premiers or no one can ever, ever, ever state what would be necessary in order to salve all the wounds that now exist. But we try, because we have nothing else. We have no other way. Today in my district, in Littleton, Colorado, in the Columbine school area, children are signing posters, preparing notes of sympathy that I will collect from them on Thursday and then I will take with me to Russia the next day. We hope to be visiting Beslan and we hope to be able to express the sympathy of the people in my district and they, of course, represent the bulk of the world who are heartsick at the events in Beslan. We need to talk about it more, although it is very difficult to do. It is extremely painful to even discuss these things, I know. But it is important for us to do so. It is important for us to try to think about what motivates people to do what they did, what the terrorists did there and what the rest of the world must do in response to it in order to not fall victim to the same kind of barbarism. It is an incredibly difficult challenge we all face, the world faces. How it is that we can respond? What do we do in the face of such evil?

□ 2300

What defenses do we prepare? What armies do we send into the field and where? What are the things that we tell the people in our own country that can make them feel more at ease and safer as they tuck their children into bed at night? Because these things we face, this evil that we face, really, is powerful. It feeds upon a number of emotions that are difficult to deal with.

Yet we must do so. We must think about what kind of defenses we can erect, how we can defend ourselves, what do we do around the world, and what do we do even in our own country. What are the principles and ideas that we live by that we can extol? How can we convince the rest of the world that there are ways to live in peace with each other regardless of the faith that one ascribes to? How can we exist on a planet if there are hundreds of millions of people who believe that if one does not believe in their God, if one does not accept their principles of religious ideology, that they do not deserve to exist and that they are, in fact, some sort of threat to them?

These ideas have to be fought with ideas. We have to talk about who we are in the United States and in Western Civilization. We have to talk about

what principles we believe in and espouse. We cannot just be against others. We have to talk about who we are and what is at stake. Everyone in the world, certainly Americans, when this happened, they felt some degree of angst and certainly horror, but also some fear, some basic kind of internalized fear about the possibility that it could happen there, here, in our community, in our school, with our children.

And it develops a sort of paranoia about the world, and people do not know what they can do about this. And I suggest that there are answers to this question, and I do not believe for a moment that I am the person that can give all of the answers to all of the questions, but I do feel it is incumbent upon us to talk about some of the things that are important and some of the things that could and should be done in order to both defend ourselves and advance the cause of liberty and freedom throughout the world.

We must talk about the value of Western Civilization and the principles embodied therein. We must begin to explore them in a way that perhaps has not happened in a century or more in this country or certainly even around the world, in the Western world anyway. Because, after all, if we are just simply people who exist in a particular place on the planet, that is all, we are just residents of an area with no particular philosophy, set of ideas or ideals that are worth our allegiance, then the opponents of Western Civilization, the terrorists who seek to kill us because we do not see the world in the same way they do, they will have an advantage because they know exactly who they are, Mr. Speaker. They know the world in which they exist and the world that they represent. They have been thoroughly indoctrinated and are convinced of the righteousness of their ways.

It is not just enough to simply juxtapose our civilization against theirs. We have to, again, as I say, talk about in America and the rest of the Western world, what it is that makes us different and why we deserve to defend ourselves, what is it about our society that is worth defending. Are there principles? Are there ideas and ideals that we should hold on to and defend at all costs?

I certainly think so. I certainly think the ideas of individual liberty, the rule of law, the concepts embodied in both the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States and even going back to the Magna Carta, I think these things are worthy of our allegiance. I wonder how many children in our schools learn them, know about them. I certainly do not want our schools to turn into madrasas where children are indoctrinated day in and day out with the propaganda of their civilization. I want our schools to be true places of learning where children are confronted with a series of ideas and facts and then asked to in-

corporate them into what they believe and think, to analyze them, become objective observers, and to come to a conclusion, which I think would be incapable that what we have and what we have put forward on this Earth in terms of a method of living, a system of living together, regardless if we are Muslims or Christians or Jews or Buddhists or nothing at all in terms of a religious persuasion; but the fact that we can create a society in which all these people can live is, I think, a good thing. It is worthy of our talking about. It is worthy of our allegiance. That is talking about who we are and what we believe in and why it is worthy, and it is a good thing and we need to do that.

We need to do other things that encourage Islam to look internally and to reform itself. There are many people, I read comments by leaders in the Islamic faith, Muslim leaders, that suggested that they too had come to the conclusion that something was very, very wrong inside their religion. Some even called it a corrupted religion. They lamented the fact that in recent history, although terrorists had different kinds of nationalities and ethnicities, they had one thing in common: they were Muslims. And they lamented that fact, and they said there is something wrong with this religion. There is something wrong with a religion that, in fact, promotes a cult of death. So there is hope that reform can come to Islam.

The third thing we must do and to hope for is to construct a defense of our own civilization and of our own country against terrorist activities. And, believe me, this is a tough one. This gets us into, I guess, a little bit of the battle that went on there or at least the discussion that went on here the hour preceding this one about why are we in Iraq, was it the right thing to do, was the President motivated by all the right reasons or all the wrong reasons? Was Iraq the proper thing for us to do, the logical extension of our war against terror? Specifically, was it the right thing to do in our war against fundamentalist Islam? Because that is really what we are at war with.

I agree with some of the comments made earlier by some of the folks over here that said that terror is not the thing with which we are at war. It is simply a tactic. I have said this on this floor many times and now for several years, and I am glad to hear it being repeated by others because, of course, it is important for us to understand who the enemy really is.

□ 2310

I think our friends on the other side did not go as far as they needed to go to actually describe them. It is fundamentalist Islam with which we are at war, make no mistake about it. And whether that fervor, that Islamic fervor leads you to do things like press for a separation from Russia because you want to create an Islamic republic, it is

still fundamentalist Islam with which the world is at war. Or whether it manifests itself as it did here by planes crashing into buildings and into the Pentagon and into fields in Pennsylvania, it is fundamentalist Islam with which we are at war. Around the world, incidents occur. There are motivating factors that combine to create them, but when you sort of get to the bottom line, what is the common element? It is fundamentalist Islam.

We are not used to saying things like that here in this body; we are certainly not used to saying things like that on the political stump, because this is America, and we do not talk about people's religion, certainly not in disparaging ways. Among other things, it will probably cost us votes. But seriously, it is uncomfortable and it is just not done. But we have to do it. It is uncomfortable. I certainly do not like having to say these things, but I see absolutely no alternative to saying them, because I believe these things are true, and I believe most of the world knows them to be true.

So we have to talk about who we are. We have to hope for reform of Islam, and we have to defend ourselves. I do not know of another set of alternatives. I do not know of another strategy that we can employ.

I do not know whether or not the President of the United States was thinking about one or all of these things when he led us into the war in Iraq. I hope that, in fact, it was part of his strategy. I hope with all of my heart that what we are doing in Iraq will advance our cause, will weaken our enemy, will somehow force that reformation, or at least a movement toward that reformation, and certainly I hope that it helps defend us against further attacks.

I hope the President is right when he says we are fighting them there because we do not want to be fighting them here. I hope he is right when he suggests that planting the seeds of a democracy in an area of the world in which it has never existed will bear fruit. I hope he is right. We have set a course. We have taken a vote in this House. We have sent men and women off to war. So I hope we were right.

There was an interesting thing today, my chief of staff called me and said, we have this questionnaire from one of the local papers in our community and it has to go in today and we want you to answer these things. I had not seen it before, so we had to go through them. One question I think toward the end was, would I have voted differently knowing what I know now. Would I have voted differently about going to war in Iraq.

This was a very interesting question, one that has certainly been in my mind many times since embarking upon the course of action that we have taken. And I finally, after a lot of discussion, and we had the staff come in and we talked about this, and we had sort of, it was really kind of an interesting and

neat discussion about this, everybody sort of venting their feelings and attitudes and ideas. Finally I said, the reality is it is too early to tell, because we just do not know yet. I mean, I want to believe that what we are doing is the right thing to do. I think it is too early to determine whether or not the course of action upon which we have set ourselves will lead to all of the things that we hope. I believe that it is certainly a noble endeavor. I believe that if the goals are accomplished; if, in fact, we can change the world because we changed the political environment in the Middle East, and there is some hope that that is exactly what has happened. I mean, after all, Libya did a complete about-face after we went into Iraq. It admitted to a nuclear program leading to nuclear weaponry being developed and said, we are not going to do that anymore. Although there may have been other reasons for them to do that, the fact is that Qadhafi did it and I think, to a large extent, it was as a result of what we did in Iraq and what he saw happening in his neighbor's land.

It does not mean that all the dominoes will fall. It certainly does not mean that in a month or 2 or a year or 2, we will be able to say the troops can come home, but there is that hope out there. It is a challenge to us all.

I wish I could say with an absolute and unequivocal sort of mindset that yes, it was the right vote to cast. I cast the vote because I believed what I was told: that we faced clear and present danger in the existence of Saddam Hussein and his regime. There is certainly a great deal of evidence to suggest that it is true; there is also evidence to suggest that perhaps it is not, it was not as great a threat to our immediate survival as we had anticipated or had been told or thought.

So, Mr. Speaker, it is not clear-cut. There is no easy way out of this. There is no absolute way in which we can, or at least I can make a decision here, except to say it is too early to tell. We hope and we pray that we have made the right decision. We make these decisions, certainly I know I and I am sure almost all of my colleagues here made the decision in how to vote after thought, a great deal of thought and, for most of us, a great deal of prayer, asking for guidance, looking at all of the information available, and then doing what we are asked to do here and what we are elected to do: cast a vote.

Now, I hope and I pray that this country will begin to do what I suggested earlier needs to be done in terms of extolling the virtues of the American creed, of western civilization, and why we all should be proud to be part of it. I hope and I pray that Islam will begin to reform itself, look internally, and see that the path it is on, if it is allowed to be dragged into this quagmire of extremist violence, terrorist activities, murdering women and children; if the religion is allowed to be dragged into that quagmire, it can never, ever

survive in the long run. It can create a great deal of damage, but it could never survive in the long run, and I hope it will begin to look internally.

Finally, I hope that we will defend ourselves in every way necessary, including the defense of our own borders.

□ 2320

This is something that, of course, I have taken issue with in terms of our own administration and, of course, with the position of the other party. Because up to this point in time, neither of these two parties and neither of the two candidates for the presidency of the United States have indicated a willingness to defend the borders.

Today's Time magazine comes out with a story that is absolutely incredible. I really commend it to anyone and everyone who has an interest, and everyone should have an interest. It is called, Who Left the Door Open? It starts off talking about the fact that we all go through, and today I went through the process, of course, as millions of other Americans did, of getting on an airplane, going through the security screening system, putting all the luggage through, taking off my shoes, going through the system, having my belt checked to make sure I was not carrying anything, all the people behind me doing the same thing, in front of me doing the same thing, everybody being significantly inconvenienced because we want to be safe. We want to try to make sure that no one's going to get on a plane and do something really horrible, and so we all put up with this frustrating sort of experience and annoying, time-consuming process because we believe that it is making us more safe.

In fact, of course, while we are doing all of these things here and while at ports of entry throughout the United States people are lined up in cars, while we are doing a little better at trying to determine who they really are that are coming into this country, we are trying to figure out whether the documents are any better. We are providing technology to the ports of entry to allow them to do a better job at making sure of the people who are coming into the country, as to who they are, who they say they are.

Time magazine, Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues know, is certainly no conservative icon. Even Time magazine has now come to the conclusion that we have got a big problem with porous borders and with an immigration policy that is dangerous, to say the least, in a variety of different ways.

It is a lengthy article. I am astounded, as a matter of fact, at some of the things they say, again because it is Time magazine, because one just does not expect this kind of a thing from Time magazine.

U.S. borders, rather than becoming more secure since 9/11, have grown even more porous, they say, and the trend has accelerated in the past year. It is fair to estimate, based on a Time inves-

tigation, not Tom Tancredo's point of view here, based on a Time magazine investigation, that the number of illegal aliens flooding into the United States this year will total 3 million. That is enough to fill 22,000 Boeing 737-700 airliners or 60 flights every day for a year.

Washington's failure to control the Nation's borders has a painful impact on workers at the bottom of the ladder and increasingly those farther up the income scale. The system holds down the pay of American workers and rewards the illegals and the businesses that hire them. It breeds anger and resentment among citizens who cannot understand why illegal aliens often receive government-funded health care, education benefits and subsidized housing. In border communities, the masses of incoming illegals lay waste to the landscape, create a costly burden for agencies trying to keep public order. Moreover, the system makes a mockery of the U.S. tradition of encouraging legal immigration.

It is so true. Today, Mr. Speaker, I had a call from a member of the press in Colorado Springs, Colorado, Gazette Telegraph, and she said she was working with an individual who was trying to get to stay in the United States but was having a very difficult time and had spent a lot of money. I said, well, do you mean this person is here illegally? Well, it turns out, of course, she is. Of course, yes, that her daughter now needs medical treatment and she is afraid if she is returned home and this kid is sent to Mexico, she would not be able to get the medical treatment, but that the task of getting the papers she needs is now very time-consuming and expensive.

I suggested to her that, of course, the mistake that was made originally was coming into the country illegally and that that can only be rectified by going home to the country of origin and starting the process of coming into this country through the normal channels. The reporter for the Gazette Telegraph said to me, well, it is really too cumbersome, it is time-consuming, it costs a lot of money. I said, yes, of course, it does, that is absolutely true. It is hard to get in. It is hard to do it the right way.

Every Wednesday there is a service for the folks who are being sworn in as new citizens, and I tell them every time I go, I say, look, I have come to tell you two things: Welcome to the United States, number 1; number 2, thank you for doing it the right way because, in fact, millions of people choose not to do it this way. Every time we give them all the benefits that you now are going to get because you have done it the right way. It is a mockery of this process. It is an insult to everyone who has spent the time and the energy to actually become a citizen of this country.

So when we tell people, whether it is the President of the United States, or JOHN KERRY, who tell people that do

not worry if you are here illegally, we will, in fact, allow you to stay and give you amnesty, you are, in fact, spitting in the eye of every single person who has done it the right way and of the millions of the people around this world who are attempting to do it the right way.

So I want us to defend our borders, which is part of the defense of the Nation, a significant part of that defense. Of the 3 million people a year that even *Time* magazine says come in here illegally, we know that a significant percentage, perhaps 300,000 of the 3 million, come here from countries other than Mexico. Of the 300,000 who get in illegally from other countries, perhaps 100,000 are from countries that are identified, by the way, as countries of interest.

Thousands and thousands more are coming across those borders every single year from countries that we identify as being supporters of terrorism. They are coming in illegally. Some of them are paying huge, huge fees to come into this country illegally. Upwards of \$50,000 is being paid by people who desire to come into this country under the radar, without our knowledge. People from the Middle East and from Asia are paying that much money, and you have to ask yourself, why would anybody do that? And where would they get the money if they do not have it themselves, who would be paying to get them in here? Some pretty frightening thoughts come to mind, because I do not think anybody is going to pay \$50,000 to come into this country to work at the 7-Eleven down the street or to pick grapes. I think they have other reasons for coming in, and if somebody else pays for them to come in, what are the reasons anyone would have to put up such large sums of money to sneak people into this country?

Our borders are porous, and they are porous because we do not have the political will to close them. Neither party, neither candidate for President, will suggest this for fear of the political retribution that would come from interest groups inside their own party.

But I suggest that either candidate for President would be doing not just his country a favor and the right thing but would be doing his own candidacy and his own party a favor by talking about the need to secure our borders and by actually doing it, which we can do by the way. We absolutely can do.

□ 2330

We have the technology to do it tomorrow. We do not have the political will. It is amazing.

So one part of that three-legged stool they put out there is dependent upon our willingness to make hard, hard

choices. Well, actually, I am sure in every way, to the extent that we have any ability to make decisions about any one of those three things, they are all tough choices. But in the area of our own national defense, this is not a hard choice. This is not a difficult sort of academic question to answer.

What would be the ramifications of closing the border to those people coming through without our permission? The ramifications would be we would shut down the flow of cheap labor. Hence, we would be confronted by a lot of interest groups that would raise hell about it. We would be confronted by the Democratic party infrastructure that would say, look, these people coming in would eventually become our voters. We cannot close down those borders.

But both of the reasons that are given by individual parties and individual candidates, even if they do not express them openly, those are the reasons why we do not do it, and those reasons pale in significance to the fact that we are ever more vulnerable to an attack because of our borders being porous.

Again, great article. I cannot believe that I am up here talking about a truly honest and definitive look at the issue of immigration coming out of *TIME* Magazine, but here it is. "Who Left the Door Open?" Great, great article. I suggest that everyone get a copy of it. And I suggest certainly that our colleagues in this Congress get a copy, read it, and take it to heart. Because although there are pressure groups that will attack us if we actually do something about immigration, the fact is that the citizens of this country, John Q. Citizen, and our own children and grandchildren will thank us, because it is the right thing to do.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BERMAN (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for June 18 through June 25, 2004 on account of official business.

Mr. FROST (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of personal reasons.

Ms. SLAUGHTER (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for the week of September 13 on account of official duties in the district.

Mr. GERLACH (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today on account of a family commitment.

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today on account of a family emergency.

Mr. BOOZMAN (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today on account of attending the funeral of a friend.

Mr. TAUZIN (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today and the balance of the week on account of medical reasons.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. WOOLSEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. CAPPS, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. EMANUEL, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MCDERMOTT, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WATSON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. RUSH, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. THORNBERRY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. THORNBERRY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today and September 14 and 15.

Mr. SHUSTER, for 5 minutes, today and September 14.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, September 15.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, for 5 minutes, today.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1368. An act to authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr. (posthumously) and his widow Coretta Scott King in recognition of their contributions to the Nation on behalf of the civil rights movement; to the Committee on Financial Services.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 33 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, September 14, 2004, at 9 a.m., for morning hour debates.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for speaker-authorized official travel during the fourth quarter of 2003 and the second quarter of 2004, pursuant to Public Law 95-384 are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, MS. ELIZABETH USSERY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 11 AND JULY 13, 2004

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Elizabeth Ussery	7/11	7/13	Canada	718.08	544.00	³ 132.00	100.00	.....	.....	850.08	644.00
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	323.37	.....	.....	.....	323.37
Committee total .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	544.00	.....	423.37	.....	.....	.....	967.37

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

³ Cabs, parking.

ELIZABETH USSERY, July 20, 2004.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO CHILE, ARGENTINA AND PERU, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN DEC. 9 AND DEC. 14, 2004

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Roy Blunt	12/9	12/11	Chile .....	.....	8,768	.....	1,406.10	.....	7,807.53	.....	17,981.63
Hon. Dave Camp	12/11	12/12	Argentina .....	.....	5,120	.....	265.37	.....	2,795	.....	8,180.37
Hon. Eric Cantor	12/12	12/14	Peru .....	.....	8,498.17	.....	7,019.48	.....	9,274.06	.....	24,791.71
Hon. Lincoln Diaz-Balart
Hon. Mario Diaz-Balart
Hon. Katherine Harris
Hon. Mike McIntyre
Brian Diffell
Richard Eddings
Amy Field
David Hebert
Steven Stombres
Susan Burson Taylor
Scott Palmer
John Ebold
Hon. Deborah Pryce
Committee total	22,386.17	.....	8,690.95	.....	19,876.59	.....	50,953.71

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

ROY BLUNT, Jan. 13, 2004.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO THE NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY MEETING, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN MAY 22 AND JUNE 2, 2004

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Doug Bereuter	5/22	5/23	France .....	.....	460.00	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	5/24	5/26	Ukraine .....	.....	927.00	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	5/27	6/2	Slovakia .....	.....	2,700.00	.....	2,282.97	.....	.....	.....	6,369.97
Hon. Michael Bilirakis	5/22	5/23	France .....	.....	460.00	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	5/24	5/26	Ukraine .....	.....	927.00	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	5/27	5/30	Slovakia .....	.....	1,800.00	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	5/31	6/1	Ireland .....	.....	327.00	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	3,514.00
Hon. Joel Hefley	5/22	5/23	France .....	.....	460.00	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	5/24	5/26	Ukraine .....	.....	927.00	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	5/27	5/30	Slovakia .....	.....	1,800.00	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	5/31	6/1	Ireland .....	.....	327.00	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	3,514.00
Hon. Paul Gillmor	5/22	5/23	France .....	.....	460.00	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	5/24	5/26	Ukraine .....	.....	927.00	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	5/27	5/30	Slovakia .....	.....	1,800.00	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	5/31	6/1	Ireland .....	.....	327.00	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	3,514.00
Hon. John Tanner	5/22	5/23	France .....	.....	460.00	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	5/24	5/26	Ukraine .....	.....	927.00	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	5/27	5/30	Slovakia .....	.....	1,800	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	5/31	6/1	Ireland .....	.....	327.00	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	3,514.00
Hon. John Boozman	5/22	5/23	France .....	.....	460.00	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	5/24	5/26	Ukraine .....	.....	927.00	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	5/27	5/30	Slovakia .....	.....	1,800	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	5/31	6/1	Ireland .....	.....	327.00	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	3,514.00
Hon. Tom Udall	5/22	5/23	France .....	.....	460.00	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	5/24	5/26	Ukraine .....	.....	927.00	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	5/27	5/30	Slovakia .....	.....	1,800	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	5/31	6/1	Ireland .....	.....	327.00	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	5,514.00
Hon. Dennis Moore	5/27	5/30	Slovakia .....	.....	1,800	.....	3,283.39	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	5/31	6/1	Ireland .....	.....	327.00	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	3,410.39
Hon. Ellen Tauscher	5/27	5/30	Slovakia .....	.....	1,800	.....	3,121.89	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	5/31	6/1	Ireland .....	.....	327.00	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	5,248.89
Michael Ennis	5/22	5/23	France .....	.....	460.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	5/24	5/26	Ukraine .....	.....	927.00	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	5/27	6/1	Slovakia .....	.....	2,700.00	.....	2,417.97	.....	.....	.....	6,504.97
Hon. Kay King	5/22	5/23	France .....	.....	460.00	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	5/24	5/26	Ukraine .....	.....	927.00	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	5/27	6/2	Slovakia .....	.....	2,700.00	.....	2,417.97	.....	.....	.....	6,504.97
John Lis	5/22	5/23	France .....	.....	460.00	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	5/24	5/26	Ukraine .....	.....	927.00	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	5/27	6/2	Slovakia .....	.....	2,700.00	.....	2,417.97	.....	.....	.....	6,504.97
Susan Olson	5/22	5/23	France .....	.....	460.00	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	5/24	5/26	Ukraine .....	.....	927.00	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	5/27	6/2	Slovakia .....	.....	2,700.00	.....	2,282.97	.....	.....	.....	6,369.97
Vincent Morelli	5/24	5/26	Ukraine .....	.....	927.00	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	5/27	6/2	Slovakia .....	.....	2,700.00	.....	5,684.45	.....	.....	.....	9,311.45
Carol Lawrence	5/27	6/2	Slovakia .....	.....	2,700.00	.....	5,418.46	.....	.....	.....	8,118.46
Paul Gallis	5/27	6/2	Slovakia .....	.....	2,250.00	.....	5,406.14	.....	.....	.....	7,656.14
Mark Wellman	5/28	6/2	Slovakia .....	.....	2,250.00	.....	5,406.14	.....	.....	.....	7,656.14
L. Kathleen Becker	5/28	5/30	Slovakia .....	.....	1,350.00	.....	2,703.07	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	5/31	6/1	Ireland .....	.....	327.00	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	4,380.07
Marilyn Owen	5/28	5/30	Slovakia .....	.....	1,350.00	.....	2,703.07	.....	.....	.....	.....

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO THE NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY MEETING, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN MAY 22 AND JUNE 2, 2004—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Delegation expenses:	5/31	6/1	Ireland		327.00		(³)				4,380.07
Representational functions									7,646.52		7,646.52
Miscellaneous									533.38		533.38
Committee total					59,954.00		45,546.46		8,179.90		113,680.36

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.³ Military air transportation.

DOUG BEREUTER, July 27, 2004.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO IRELAND AND NORTHERN IRELAND, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JUNE 26 AND JULY 2, 2004.

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. James T. Walsh	6/26	6/30	Dublin		716.00						
	6/28	6/29	Belfast		176.00						
	7/1	7/2	Cork		168.00						1,060.00
Hon. Jerry Costello	6/26	6/30	Dublin		716.00						
	6/28	6/29	Belfast		176.00						
	7/1	7/2	Cork		168.00						1,060.00
Hon. John Duncan	6/26	6/30	Dublin		716.00						
	6/28	6/29	Belfast		176.00						
	7/1	7/2	Cork		168.00						1,060.00
Hon. Elliot Engel	6/26	6/30	Dublin		716.00						
	6/28	6/29	Belfast		176.00						
	7/1	7/2	Cork		168.00						
	7/2	7/2	Ennis		1,365.00						2,425.00
Hon. Tim Holden	6/26	6/30	Dublin		716.00						
	6/28	6/29	Belfast		176.00						
	7/1	7/2	Cork		168.00						1,060.00
Kristin Calabrese	6/26	6/30	Dublin		716.00						
	6/28	6/29	Belfast		176.00						
	7/1	7/2	Cork		168.00						1,060.00
John Feehery	6/26	6/30	Dublin		716.00						
	6/28	6/29	Belfast		176.00						
	7/1	7/2	Cork		168.00						1,060.00
William Tranchese	6/26	6/30	Dublin		716.00						
	6/28	6/29	Belfast		176.00						
	7/1	7/2	Cork		168.00						1,060.00
Committee total											9,845.00

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

JAMES T. WALSH, Aug. 9, 2004.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2004

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
HON. Cal Dooley	5/7	5/9	El Salvador		639.00		(³)				639.00
Committee total					639.00						639.00

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.³ Military air transportation.

BOB GOODLATTE, Chairman, July 15, 2004.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2004

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Harold Rogers	4/11	4/13	Spain		465.00						465.00
	4/14	4/16	Italy		462.00						462.00
	4/17	4/19	Croatia		435.00						435.00
	4/19	4/20	Ireland		157.00						157.00
Hon. Bud Cramer	4/11	4/13	Spain		465.00						465.00
	4/14	4/16	Italy		462.00						462.00
	4/17	4/19	Croatia		290.00						290.00
Part commercial airfare							4,103.31				4,103.31
Michelle Mrdeza	4/11	4/13	Spain		465.00						465.00
	4/14	4/16	Italy		462.00						462.00
	4/17	4/19	Croatia		435.00						435.00
	4/19	4/20	Ireland		157.00						157.00
Tom McLemore	4/11	4/13	Spain		465.00						465.00
	4/14	4/16	Italy		462.00						462.00
	4/17	4/19	Croatia		435.00						435.00
	4/19	4/20	Ireland		157.00						157.00
Stephanie Gupta	4/11	4/13	Spain		465.00						465.00
	4/14	4/16	Italy		462.00						462.00

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2004—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Commercial airfare							3,246.63				3,246.63
Hon. David L. Hobson		4/3	USA		237.00						237.00
	4/4	4/11	People's Republic of China		1,949.00						1,949.00
	4/11	4/12	USA		237.00						237.00
Chinese departure tax							280.50				280.50
							(³)				
Hon. Michael K. Simpson		4/3	USA		237.00						237.00
	4/4	4/11	People's Republic of China		1,949.00						1,949.00
	4/11	4/12	USA		237.00						237.00
Chinese departure tax							280.50				280.50
							(³)				
Hon. Ed Pastor		4/3	USA		237.00						237.00
	4/4	4/11	People's Republic of China		1,949.00						1,949.00
	4/11	4/12	USA		237.00						237.00
Chinese departure tax							280.50				280.50
							(³)				
Kevin Cook		4/2	USA								
	4/4	4/11	People's Republic of China		1,949.00						1,949.00
Chinese departure tax							280.50				280.50
Commercial airfare							8,140.79				8,140.79
Dixon Butler		4/2	USA								
	4/4	4/11	People's Republic of China		1,949.00						1,949.00
Chinese departure tax							280.50				280.50
Commercial airfare							8,140.79				8,140.79
Richard E. Efford	4/10	4/15	Spain		1,612.00						1,612.00
Commercial airfare							6,842.54				6,842.54
Leigha Shaw	4/10	4/15	Spain		1,612.00						1,612.00
Commercial airfare							6,842.54				6,842.54
John Blazey	4/12	4/18	Spain		2,510.00						2,510.00
Commercial airfare							7,200.52				7,200.52
Mike Malone	4/11	4/15	Spain		1,612.00						1,612.00
Commercial airfare							6,915.00				6,915.00
Hon. Jim Moran	4/11	4/14	Jordan		714.00						714.00
	4/14	4/16	Israel		724.00						724.00
Commercial airfare							5,812.15				5,812.15
Hon. John Murtha	4/12	4/13	Austria		310.00						310.00
	4/13	4/13	Kosovo								
	4/13	4/14	Bosnia								
	4/14	4/14	Austria		310.00						310.00
	4/14	4/14	Belgium								
							(³)				
David Morrison	4/12	4/13	Austria		310.00						310.00
	4/13	4/13	Kosovo								
	4/13	4/14	Bosnia								
	4/14	4/14	Austria		310.00						310.00
	4/14	4/14	Belgium								
							(³)				
James W. Dyer	4/17	4/18	Jordan		238.00						238.00
	4/18	4/19	Iraq/Kuwait		204.00						204.00
	4/19	4/20	Bahrain/Qatar		321.00						321.00
	4/20	4/21	UAE/Saudi Arabia		258.00						258.00
	4/21	4/22	Germany		364.00						364.00
							(³)				
Hon. Joseph K. Knollenberg	5/26	5/31	Italy		696.38						696.38
Hon. Sam Farr	5/26	5/31	Italy		696.38						696.38
Carol Murphy	5/26	5/31	Italy		696.38						696.38
Walter Hearne	5/26	5/31	Italy		696.38						696.38
James W. Dyer	5/7	5/10	Italy		933.00						933.00
Commercial airfare							6,865.14				6,865.14
Therese McAuliffe	5/7	5/10	Italy		933.00						933.00
Commercial airfare							6,865.14				6,865.14
John Blazey	5/7	5/10	Italy		933.00						933.00
Commercial airfare							6,865.14				6,865.14
Susan Firth	5/20	5/25	Costa Rica		350.00						350.00
Commercial airfare							537.00				537.00
Hon. C.W. Bill Young	6/3	6/8	France		672.00						672.00
Misc. embassy costs								830.45			830.45
							(³)				
Misc. transportation costs								877.77			877.77
Hon. Jo Ann Emerson	6/3	6/8	France		672.00						672.00
Misc. embassy costs								830.45			830.45
							(³)				
Misc. transportation costs								877.77			877.77
Hon. Jack Kingston	6/3	6/8	France		558.00						558.00
Misc. embassy costs								830.45			830.45
							(³)				
Misc. transportation costs								877.77			877.77
Hon. Rodney Frelinghuysen	6/3	6/8	France		672.00						672.00
Misc. embassy costs								830.45			830.45
							(³)				
Misc. transportation costs								877.77			877.77
John Blazey	6/3	6/8	France		672.00						672.00
Misc. embassy costs								830.45			830.45
							(³)				
Misc. transportation costs								877.77			877.77
David Jolly	6/3	6/8	France		672.00						672.00
Misc. embassy costs								830.45			830.45
							(³)				
Misc. transportation costs								877.77			877.77
Douglas Gregory	6/3	6/8	France		672.00						672.00
Misc. embassy costs								830.45			830.45
							(³)				
Misc. transportation costs								877.77			877.77
Committee total					39,801.52		79,779.19		11,957.54		131,538.25

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.³ Military air transportation.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2004

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Visit to Qatar, Iraq, Jordan and Hungary with Codel M. Rogers, Apr. 3–9, 2004:											
Hon. Joe Wilson	4/3	4/4	Qatar		244.15						244.15
	4/4	4/5	Iraq (day trips)								
	4/4	4/7	Jordan		714.00						714.00
	4/7	4/9	Hungary		508.00						508.00
Visit to Haiti, Apr. 13 and 15, 2004:											
Hon. Kendrick B. Meek	4/13	4/13	Haiti								
	4/15	4/15	Haiti								
Commercial airfare							456.00				456.00
Mark R. Lewis	4/13	4/13	Haiti								
	4/15	4/15	Haiti								
Commercial airfare							804.20				804.20
Visit to Russia and Azerbaijan May 23–27, 2004:											
Hon. Curt Weldon	5/23	5/26	Russia		1,092.00						1,092.00
	5/26	5/27	Azerbaijan		378.00						378.00
Commercial airfare							5,750.28				5,750.28
William C. Ostendorff	5/23	5/26	Russia		1,092.00						1,092.00
	5/26	5/27	Azerbaijan		378.00						378.00
Commercial airfare							5,913.82				5,913.82
Jeremiah J. Gertler	5/23	5/26	Russia		1,092.00						1,092.00
	5/26	5/27	Azerbaijan		378.00						378.00
Commercial airfare							5,913.82				5,913.82
Delegation expenses							2,742.00				2,742.00
Visit to Uzbekistan, Qatar and Germany with Codel Ney, May 23–28, 2004:											
Hon. Joe Wilson	5/23	5/25	Ubekistan		456.00						456.00
	5/26	5/27	Qatar		327.00						327.00
	5/27	5/28	Germany		253.00						253.00
Visit to Korea, May 26–28, 2004:											
Hon. Loretta Sanchez	5/26	5/28	Korea		658.00						658.00
Commercial airfare							2,578.37				2,578.37
Mark. R. Lewis	5/26	5/28	Korea		658.00						658.00
Commercial airfare							2,654.37				2,654.37
Visit to Cuba, May 25, 2004:											
Hon. Phil Gingrey	5/25	5/25	Cuba								
Hon. Kendrick B. Meek	5/25	5/25	Cuba								
Justin P. Bernier	5/25	5/25	Cuba		3.30						3.30
Hugh P. Brady	5/25	5/25	Cuba		3.30						3.30
Visit to Italy with Codel Knollenberg, May 26–31, 2004:											
Hon. Robin Hayes	5/26	5/31	Italy		3,336.00						3,336.00
Visit to France and Germany with Codel Young, June 4–8, 2004:											
Hon. Neil Abercrombie	6/4	6/6	France		1,892.37						1,892.37
	6/6	6/8	Germany		614.49						614.49
Visit to France, June 5–8, 2004:											
Hon. Joe Wilson	6/5	6/8	France		1,924.92						1,924.92
Commercial transportation							5,968.74				5,968.74
Hon. Tom Cole	6/5	6/8	France		1,924.92						1,924.92
Commercial transportation							5,968.74				5,968.74
Visit to Kuwait, Iraq and Germany, June 11–13, 2004:											
Hon. Jo Ann Davis	6/11	6/12	Kuwait		394.00						394.00
	6/11	6/11	Iraq (day trip)								
	6/12	6/13	Germany		195.00						195.00
Hon. Adam Smith	6/11	6/12	Kuwait		394.00						394.00
	6/11	6/11	Iraq (day trip)								
	6/12	6/13	Germany		195.00						195.00
Hon. Madeleine Z. Bordallo	6/11	6/12	Kuwait		394.00						394.00
	6/11	6/11	Iraq (day trip)								
	6/12	6/13	Germany		195.00						195.00
Justin P. Bernier	6/11	6/12	Kuwait		394.00						394.00
	6/11	6/11	Iraq (day trip)								
	6/12	6/13	Germany		195.00						195.00
Loren L. Dealy	6/11	6/12	Kuwait		394.00						394.00
	6/11	6/11	Iraq (day trip)								
	6/12	6/13	Germany		195.00						195.00
Visit to Jordan and Iraq with Codel Hoekstra, June 19–21, 2004:											
Hon. Joe Wilson	6/19	6/21	Kuwait		476.00						476.00
	6/20	6/21	Iraq (day trips)								
Visit to Kuwait, Iraq and Germany, June 27–30, 2004:											
Hon. Duncan Hunter	6/27	6/29	Kuwait		688.00						688.00
	6/27	6/28	Iraq (day trips)								
	6/29	6/30	Germany		303.00						303.00
Hon. Ken Calvert	6/27	6/29	Kuwait		688.00						688.00
	6/27	6/28	Iraq (day trips)								
	6/29	6/30	Germany		303.00						303.00
Hon. Silvestre Reyes	6/27	6/29	Kuwait		688.00						688.00
	6/27	6/28	Iraq (day trips)								
	6/29	6/30	Germany		303.00						303.00
Robert L. Simmons	6/27	6/29	Kuwait		688.00						688.00
	6/27	6/28	Iraq (day trips)								
	6/29	6/30	Germany		303.00						303.00
Erin C. Conaton	6/27	6/29	Kuwait		688.00						688.00
	6/27	6/28	Iraq (day trips)								
	6/29	6/30	Germany		303.00						303.00
Committee total				26,303.45		38,750.34					65,053.79

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

September 13, 2004

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

H7065

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2004

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
HOUSE COMMITTEES											
Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. <input type="checkbox"/>											

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

JIM NUSSLE, Chairman, July 13, 2004.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2004

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Chris Bell	4/3	4/6	Ireland		1,377.00		(³)				1,377.00
	4/6	4/9	Hungary		762.00		(³)				762.00
Hon. Rubén Hinojosa	4/10	4/13	Italy		1,738.00		(³)				1,738.00
	4/13	4/15	Malta		652.00		(³)				652.00
	4/15	4/16	Greece		349.00		(³)				349.00
	4/16	4/18	Ireland		928.00		(³)				928.00
Hon. Maxine Waters	4/26	4/29	South Africa		577.00		3,512.00				4,089.00
Committee total					6,383.00		3,512.00				9,895.00

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.³ Military air transportation.

_____, July 30, 2004.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2004

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Tom Davis	4/11	4/14	Jordan		714.00		5,811.50				
	4/14	4/16	Israel		724.00						
John Cuaderes	4/11	4/14	Jordan		714.00		5,811.50				
	4/14	4/16	Israel		724.00						
Ashley Victoria Proctor	4/11	4/14	Jordan		714.00		5,811.50				
	4/14	4/16	Israel		724.00						
Candice Miller	4/3	4/6	Ireland		1,377.00						
	4/6	4/9	Hungary		762.00						
Christopher Shays	4/14	4/19	Jordan		970.00		5,169.05				
R.N. Palarino	4/14	4/19	Jordan		970.00		5,169.05				
Christopher Shays	5/15	5/17	Jordan		714.00		4,332.38				
Paul Kanjorski	5/24	5/25	Uzbekistan		456.00						
	5/26	5/27	Qatar		327.00						
	5/27	5/28	Germany		253.00						
Ron Lewis	5/26	5/30	Italy		696.38						
Adam Putnam	6/19	6/21	Jordan		476.00						
Lawrence Halloran	6/5	6/8	Bosnia		477.00		4,194.52				
Michael Turner	6/5	6/8	Bosnia		477.00		4,194.52				
Tom Costa	6/5	6/9	Bosnia		836.00		4,533.45				
	6/9	6/11	Croatia		540.00						
	6/11	6/13	Macedonia		130.00						
Marsha Blackburn	6/5	6/8	Paris		430.00		5,968.74				
Committee total					14,205.38		50,996.21				65,201.59

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.³ Military air transportation.

TOM DAVIS, Chairman, July 30, 2004.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2004

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Bob Ney	5/23	5/25	Uzbekistan		456.00						456.00
	5/26	5/27	Qatar		327.00						327.00
	5/27	5/28	Germany		253.00						253.00
	6/3	6/5	United Kingdom		181.00						181.00
	6/5	6/8	France		784.00						784.00
William Heaton	5/23	5/25	Uzbekistan		456.00						456.00
	5/26	5/27	Qatar		327.00						327.00
	5/27	5/28	Germany		253.00						253.00
Chris Otilio	5/23	5/25	Uzbekistan		456.00						456.00
	5/26	5/27	Qatar		327.00						327.00
	5/27	5/28	Germany		253.00						253.00
Committee total					4,073.00						4,073.00

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

BOB NEY, Chairman, Aug. 4, 2004.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2004

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Douglas Anderson	5/18	5/21	Taiwan		923.00						923.00
	5/21	5/22	Philippines		244.00						244.00
	5/22	5/24	Malaysia		358.00						358.00
	5/24	5/26	Indonesia		169.00						169.00
	5/26	5/27	Singapore		261.00						261.00
	5/18	5/27									
Renee Austell	4/4	4/8	Switzerland		1,801.15				\$ 6,216.42		6,216.42
	5/24	5/28	France		1,768.00				5,743.12		7,544.27
Hon. Cass Ballenger	4/12	4/13	Honduras		137.00				5,968.30		7,736.30
	4/13	4/14	El Salvador		23.00						23.00
	4/14	4/16	Nicaragua		182.00						182.00
	4/12	4/16							\$ 2,670.00		2,670.00
Hon. Howard Berman	6/18	6/22	Israel		1,349.00						1,349.00
	6/22	6/25	Egypt		651.00						651.00
	6/18	6/22							6,167.00		6,167.00
Patrick Brennan	4/12	4/13	Honduras		137.00						137.00
	4/13	4/14	El Salvador		78.00						78.00
	4/14	4/16	Nicaragua		447.75						447.75
	4/12	4/16							\$ 2,006.50		2,006.50
	6/10	6/12	Dominican Republic		341.00				1,500.00		1,841.00
Hon. Steve Chabot	5/26	5/28	Taiwan		394.39				4,200.43		4,594.82
Malik Chaka	4/4	4/9	Tanzania		1,130.00						1,130.00
	4/9	4/13	Malawi		276.00						276.00
	4/13	4/17	Botswana		693.00						693.00
	4/4	4/17							\$ 10,649.43		10,649.43
Joan Condon	5/23	5/23	United Kingdom		135.00						135.00
	5/24	5/25	Uganda		188.60						188.60
	5/25	5/26	Sudan		216.80						216.80
	5/26	5/31	Uganda		809.60						809.60
	5/23	5/31							\$ 7,902.28		7,902.28
Hon. Joseph Crowley	4/3	4/6	Ireland		1,377.00				(³)		1,377.00
Hon. Jo Ann Davis	4/3	4/6	Ireland		1,377.00						1,377.00
	4/6	4/9	Hungary		762.00				(³)		762.00
Jim Farr	4/3	4/6	Ireland		1,377.00						1,377.00
	4/6	4/9	Hungary		762.00				(³)		762.00
Daniel Freeman	4/6	4/12	Thailand		1,092.00				5,885.50		6,977.50
Kirsti Garlock	4/3	4/6	Ireland		1,377.00						1,377.00
	4/6	4/9	Hungary		762.00				(³)		762.00
Dennis Halpin	4/4	4/8	Switzerland		1,416.00				5,743.12		7,159.12
Hon. Henry Hyde	4/3	4/6	Ireland		1,377.00						1,377.00
	4/6	4/9	Hungary		762.00				(³)		762.00
Jonathan Katz	4/28	4/29	Germany		331.30				6,493.28		6,824.58
	5/24	5/31	France		2,598.96				5,964.30		8,563.26
	6/9	6/11	Turkey		634.00				6,234.94		6,868.94
David Killion	4/4	4/9	Switzerland		1,770.00				5,762.96		7,532.96
	5/21	5/24	Jordan		564.00						564.00
	5/24	5/27	United Kingdom		1,371.00						1,371.00
	5/21	5/27							\$ 6,387.76		6,387.76
Kay King	4/3	4/6	Ireland		1,377.00						1,377.00
	4/6	4/12	Hungary		1,524.00				(³)		1,524.00
	4/12	4/15	Russia		537.00						537.00
	4/15	4/17	Czech Republic		303.00						303.00
	4/12	4/17							\$ 5,201.48		5,201.48
Robert King	4/3	4/6	Ireland		413.00						413.00
	4/6	4/12	Hungary		1,524.00						1,524.00
	4/12	4/15	Russia		1,092.00						1,092.00
	4/15	4/17	Czech Republic		636.00						636.00
	4/12	4/17							\$ 5,201.48		5,201.48
	5/22	5/25	Israel		1,086.00				\$ 5,201.48		1,086.00
	5/25	5/28	Latvia		783.00						783.00
	5/21	5/28							\$ 7,591.20		7,591.20
Sheila Klein	4/3	4/6	Ireland		1,377.00						1,377.00
	4/6	4/9	Hungary		762.00				(³)		762.00
Hon. Thomas Lantos	4/3	4/6	Hungary		1,377.00						1,377.00
	4/12	4/15	Russia		1,092.00						1,092.00
	4/15	4/16	Hungary		254.00						254.00
	4/3	4/16							\$ 5,830.04		5,830.04
	5/22	5/25	Israel		1,086.00						1,086.00
	5/25	5/28	Latvia		783.00						783.00
	5/22	5/28							\$ 8,294.67		8,294.67
Hon. James Leach	5/21	5/22	Philippines		194.00						194.00
	5/22	5/24	Malaysia		258.00						258.00
	5/24	5/26	Indonesia		168.00						168.00
	5/26	5/27	Singapore		261.00						261.00
	5/21	5/27							\$ 4,415.72		4,415.72
Jessica Lewis	6/10	6/12	Dominican Republic		326.00				1,500.40		1,826.40
James McCormick	5/18	5/21	Taiwan		905.00						905.00
	5/21	5/22	Philippines		194.00						194.00
	5/22	5/24	Malaysia		258.00						258.00
	5/24	5/26	Indonesia		168.00						168.00
	5/26	5/27	Singapore		261.00						261.00
	5/18	5/27							\$ 6,216.42		6,216.42
Hon. Thaddeus McCotter	4/3	4/6	Ireland		1,377.00						1,377.00
	4/6	4/9	Hungary		762.00				(³)		762.00
Caleb McCarray	5/7	5/9	El Salvador		219.00				(³)		219.00
John Mackey	3/30	4/7	Ireland		3,345.00				5,093.54		8,438.54
	5/23	5/29	Colombia		1,575.00				1,700.50		3,275.50
Alan Makovsky	5/21	5/26	Israel		1,086.00						1,086.00
	5/26	5/28	Cyprus		927.00						927.00
	5/26	5/28							\$ 5,391.43		5,391.43
	6/11	6/13	United Kingdom		400.00				7,216.26		7,616.26
Pearl-Alice Marsh	4/4	4/9	Tanzania		1,130.00						1,130.00
	4/9	4/13	Malawi		276.00						276.00
	4/13	4/17	Botswana		693.00						693.00
	4/4	4/17							\$ 9,927.67		9,927.67
Thomas Mooney	3/29	4/8	Ireland		3,804.00						3,804.00
Hon. Grace Napolitano	4/3	4/4	Italy		136.00						136.00
	4/4	4/5	Uzbekistan		456.00						456.00
	4/5	4/6	Pakistan		113.00						113.00
	4/6	4/10	India		868.00						868.00
	4/10	4/12	Sri Lanka		388.00						388.00
	4/12	4/14	Greece		289.00				(³)		289.00
Paul Oostburg-Sanz	5/26	5/30	Venezuela		587.00				2,557.54		3,144.54
	6/10	6/12	Dominican Republic		356.00				1,500.40		1,856.40
Brenda Ortman	4/3	4/6	Ireland		1,377.00						1,377.00

September 13, 2004

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

H7067

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2004—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Yleem Poblete	4/6	4/9	Hungary		762.00		(³)				762.00
Frank Record	4/4	4/9	Switzerland		1,770.00		6,267.04				8,037.04
	4/3	4/6	Ireland		1,377.00						1,377.00
	4/6	4/9	Hungary		762.00		(³)				762.00
	5/21	5/24	Jordan		414.00						414.00
	5/24	5/27	United Kingdom		1,221.00						1,221.00
Gregg Rickman	5/21	5/27									6,388.00
	5/21	5/24	Jordan		564.00						564.00
	5/24	5/27	United Kingdom		1,371.00						1,371.00
	5/21	5/27					4,638.76				6,387.76
Walker Roberts	4/3	4/6	Ireland		1,377.00						1,377.00
	4/6	4/9	Hungary		762.00		(³)				762.00
Laura Rush	4/3	4/6	Ireland		1,377.00						1,377.00
	4/6	4/9	Hungary		762.00		(³)				762.00
Jonathan Scharfen	5/21	5/24	Jordan		564.00						564.00
	5/24	5/27	United Kingdom		1,371.00						1,371.00
	5/21	5/27					4,638.76				6,387.76
Sue Schiesser	4/3	4/6	Ireland		1,377.00						1,377.00
	4/6	4/9	Hungary		762.00		(³)				762.00
Sam Stratman	4/3	4/6	Ireland		1,307.00						1,307.00
	4/6	4/9	Hungary		712.00		(³)				712.00
Sarah Tillemann	5/23	5/29	Colombia		1,575.00		1,840.50				3,415.50
Lynne Weil	4/8	4/10	Singapore		422.00						422.00
	5/22	5/25	Israel		1,086.00						1,086.00
	5/25	5/28	Latvia		783.00						783.00
	5/21	5/28					4,877.60				8,877.60
Hillel Weinberg	4/3	4/6	Ireland		1,227.00						1,227.00
	4/6	4/9	Hungary		612.00		(³)				612.00
	4/9	4/13	Saudi Arabia		414.00						414.00
	4/13	4/17	Israel		1,710.00						1,710.00
	4/18	4/20	United Kingdom		914.00						914.00
	4/9	4/20					4,603.31				6,603.31
Hon. Gerald Weller	5/7	5/9	El Salvador		269.00		(³)				269.00
Hon. Robert Wexler	4/28	4/29	Germany		331.30		4,649.28				6,824.58
	5/24	5/31	France		2,598.96		5,964.30				8,563.26
	6/9	6/11	Turkey		634.00		6,234.94				6,868.94
Judy Wolverton	4/3	4/6	Ireland		1,377.00						1,377.00
	4/6	4/9	Hungary		762.00		(³)				762.00
Committee total					104,913.81		234,578.58				339,492.39

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.³ Military air transportation.⁴ Round trip airfare.

HENRY HYDE, Chairman, July 28, 2004.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2004

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Brian Zimmer	5/22	5/26	Belgium		1,777.30						1,777.30
	5/27	5/30	France		420.00		5,398.87				5,818.87
Bobby Vassar	5/22	5/26	Belgium		1,777.30						1,777.30
	5/27	5/30	France		420.00		5,398.87				5,818.87
Hon. Steve King	6/10	6/13	Iraq		650.00		(³)				650.00
Committee total					5,044.60		10,797.74				15,842.34

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.³ Military air transportation.

F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, Jr., Chairman, July 21, 2004.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2004

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Todd Willens	3/26	4/2	South Africa		1,368.00		7,538.35		40.00		8,946.35
Kurt Christensen	6/26	7/4	China		1,250.00		5,562.07				6,812.07
Frank Vitello	6/28	7/4	China		900.00		6,023.50				6,923.50
Committee total					3,518.00		19,123.92		40.00		22,681.92

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

RICHARD POMBO, Chairman, July 28, 2004.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON RULES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2004

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. David Dreier	4/2	4/14					(³)		6,719.85		6,719.85
	4/3	4/4	Italy		136.00						136.00
	4/4	4/5	Uzbekistan		456.00		(³)				456.00
	4/5	4/6	Pakistan		113.00		(³)				113.00
	4/6	4/8	India				(³)				
	4/8	4/10	Nepal		476.00		(³)				476.00

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON RULES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2004—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Grace Napolitano	4/10	4/12	Sri Lanka		388.00		(³)				388.00
	4/12	4/14	Greece		698.00		(³)				698.00
	4/3	4/4	Italy		136.00		(³)				136.00
	4/4	4/5	Uzbekistan		456.00		(³)				456.00
	4/5	4/6	Pakistan		113.00		(³)				113.00
	4/6	4/8	India				(³)				
Hon. Karen McCarthy	4/8	4/10	Nepal		476.00		(³)				476.00
	4/10	4/12	Sri Lanka		388.00		(³)				388.00
	4/12	4/14	Greece		698.00		(³)				698.00
	4/3	4/4	Italy		136.00		(³)				136.00
	4/4	4/5	Uzbekistan		456.00		(³)				456.00
	4/5	4/6	Pakistan		113.00		(³)				113.00
Brad Smith	4/6	4/8	India				(³)				
	4/8	4/10	Nepal		476.00		(³)				476.00
	4/10	4/12	Sri Lanka		388.00		(³)				388.00
	4/12	4/14	Greece		698.00		(³)				698.00
	4/3	4/4	Italy		136.00		(³)				136.00
	4/4	4/5	Uzbekistan		456.00		(³)				456.00
William Pitts	4/5	4/6	Pakistan		113.00		(³)				113.00
	4/6	4/8	India		392.00		(³)				392.00
	4/8	4/10	Nepal		476.00		(³)				476.00
	4/10	4/12	Sri Lanka		388.00		(³)				388.00
	4/12	4/14	Greece		698.00		(³)				698.00
	4/3	4/4	Italy		136.00		(³)				136.00
Hon. Alcee Hastings	4/4	4/5	Uzbekistan		456.00		(³)				456.00
	4/5	4/6	Pakistan		113.00		(³)				113.00
	4/6	4/8	India		392.00		(³)				392.00
	4/8	4/10	Nepal		476.00		(³)				476.00
	4/10	4/12	Sri Lanka		388.00		(³)				388.00
	4/12	4/14	Greece		698.00		(³)				698.00
Hon. Lincoln Diaz-Balart	4/17	4/30	England		1,371.00		3,475.00		135.60		4,981.60
Stephen Vermillion	4/12	4/14	Columbia		450.00		1,236.00				1,686.00
	4/12	4/14	Columbia		450.00		1,236.00				1,686.00
Committee total					14,390.00		5,947.00		6,855.45		27,192.45

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.³ Military air transportation.

DAVID DREIER, Chairman, July 27, 2004.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2004

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
HOUSE COMMITTEES											
Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. <input type="checkbox"/>											

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

SHERWOOD BOEHLERT, Chairman, July 6, 2004.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2004

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
HOUSE COMMITTEES											
Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. <input type="checkbox"/>											

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

JOEL HEFLEY, Chairman, July 12, 2004.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2004

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. John Mica	4/3	4/6	Ireland		1,377.00		(³)				1,377.00
	4/6	4/9	Hungary		762.00		(³)				762.00
Hon. James Oberstar	4/3	4/9	China		1,662.00		6,471.50				8,133.50
Adam Tsao	4/3	4/9	China		1,662.00		7,088.50				8,750.50
Anastasia Soumbeniotis	4/3	4/9	China		1,662.00		7,088.50				8,750.50
Hon. John Duncan	4/10	4/13	Spain		465.00		(³)				465.00
	4/13	4/16	Italy		462.00		(³)				462.00
Hon. Corrine Brown	4/16	4/19	Croatia		435.00		(³)				435.00
	4/19	4/20	Ireland		157.00		(³)				157.00
Hon. Eddie Bernice Johnson	5/23	5/26	Russia		1,092.00		6,929.80				8,021.80
	5/26	5/27	Azerbaijan		378.00		(⁴)				378.00
Hon. Dennis Rehberg	5/23	5/26	Russia		1,092.00		7,080.82				8,172.82
	5/26	5/27	Azerbaijan		378.00		(⁴)				378.00
Hon. Lincoln Davis	5/25	5/27	Ireland		654.00		(³)				654.00
	5/27	5/30	Kazakhstan		875.00		(³)				875.00
Hon. Lincoln Davis	5/30	5/31	Ireland		327.00		(³)				327.00
	6/5	6/8	France		1,924.92		5,968.74				7,893.66

September 13, 2004

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

H7069

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2004—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Committee total					15,364.92		40,627.86				55,992.78

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.³ Military air transportation.⁴ Included in above.

DON YOUNG, Chairman, July 22, 2004.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 2 AND MAY 9, 2004

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Phil English	4/3	4/6	Ireland		1,377.00		(³)				1,377.00
	4/6	4/9	Hungary		762.00		(³)				762.00
Hon. Wally Herger	4/10	4/13	Spain		1,203.00		(³)				1,203.00
	4/13	4/16	Italy		1,326.00		(³)				1,326.00
	4/16	4/19	Croatia		810.00		(³)				810.00
	4/19	4/20	Ireland		247.00		(³)				247.00
Hon. Sander Levin	5/7	5/9	El Salvador		269.00		³ 416.39				685.39
Hon. Xavier Becerra	5/7	5/9	El Salvador		269.00		³ 316.95				585.95
Committee total					6,263.00		733.34				6,996.34

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.³ Military air transportation.

BILL THOMAS, Chairman, July 27, 2004.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2004

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. James A. Gibbons	4/3	4/4	Africa								
	4/4	4/5	Africa		185.00						
	4/5	4/6	Africa		474.00						
	4/6	4/8	Africa		432.00						
	4/8	4/10	Africa		464.00						
Brant Bassett	4/3	4/4	Africa				⁴ 3,173.48				
	4/4	4/5	Africa		185.00						
	4/5	4/6	Africa		474.00						
	4/6	4/8	Africa		432.00						
	4/8	4/10	Africa		464.00						
Hon. Porter Goss	4/10	4/13	Europe		1,738.00						
	4/13	4/15	Europe		652.00						
	4/15	4/16	Europe		2,791.98						
	4/16	4/18	Europe		928.00						
Hon. Ray LaHood	4/10	4/13	Europe		1,738.00		(³)				
	4/13	4/15	Europe		652.00						
	4/15	4/16	Europe		2,791.98						
	4/16	4/18	Europe		928.00						
Patrick Kelly	4/10	4/13	Europe		1,738.00		(³)				
	4/13	4/15	Europe		652.00						
	4/15	4/16	Europe		2,791.98						
	4/16	4/18	Europe		928.00						
Joseph Jakub	4/10	4/13	Europe		1,738.00		(³)				
	4/13	4/15	Europe		652.00						
	4/15	4/16	Europe		2,791.98						
	4/16	4/18	Europe		928.00						
Commercial airfare							5,774.93				
Delores Jackson	4/10	4/13	Europe		1,738.00						
	4/13	4/15	Europe		652.00						
	4/15	4/16	Europe		2,791.98						
	4/16	4/18	Europe		928.00						
Commercial airfare							5,774.93				
Abigail Sullivan	4/10	4/13	Europe		1,738.00						
	4/13	4/15	Europe		652.00						
	4/15	4/16	Europe		2,791.98						
	4/16	4/18	Europe		928.00						
Commercial airfare							5,774.93				
Joseph Jakub	5/21	5/23	Europe		624.00						
	5/23	5/25	Europe		786.00						
	5/25	5/27	Europe		808.00						
Commercial airfare							6,564.00				
Brant Bassett	5/24	5/28	South America		900.00						
Commercial airfare							1,860.50				
Kevin Schmidt	5/24	5/28	South America		900.00						
Commercial airfare							1,860.50				
Hon. Peter Hoekstra	6/12	6/13	South America		225.00						
Commercial airfare							538.24				
John Stopher	6/12	6/13	South America		225.00						
Commercial airfare							538.24				
Hon. Peter Hoekstra	6/18	6/21	Middle East		476.00		(³)				
Michael Kostiw	6/18	6/21	Middle East		476.00		(³)				
John Stopher	6/18	6/21	Middle East		476.00		(³)				
Kathleen Reilly	6/18	6/21	Middle East		476.00		(³)				

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2004—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Michael Kostiw	4/22	4/28	Europe		1,696.00		(³)				
Commercial airfare							2,140.12				
Michael Kostiw	4/4	4/8	Europe		1,420.00						
Commercial airfare							4,142.61				
Robert Myhill	4/4	4/8	Europe		1,420.00						
Commercial airfare							4,142.61				
Barbara Bennett	4/12	4/15	Europe		690.00						
Commercial airfare							5,349.03				
Robert Myhill	4/12	4/15	Europe		690.00						
Commercial airfare							5,349.03				
David Barth	4/4	4/19	Europe		2,198.00						
Commercial airfare							5,561.81				
Committee total											115,974.32

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.³ Military air transportation.⁴ Part military air transportation and part commercial airfare.

PORTER GOSS, Chairman, Aug. 3, 2004.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, SELECT COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2004

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Ben Chandler	6/4	6/8	France		\$430.92		\$5,968.74				\$6,399.66
Hon. Bob Etheridge	6/4	6/8	France		430.92		5,968.74				6,399.66
	4/3	4/4	Qatar		654.00		(³)				654.00
	4/4	4/6	Jordan		714.00		(³)				714.00
	4/7	4/9	Hungary		762.00		(³)				762.00
Sue Ramanthion	5/21	5/29	France		2,400.00		6,269.55				8,669.55
Patricia DeMarco	5/21	5/29	France		2,400.00		6,269.55				8,669.55
Committee total					7,791.84		24,476.58				32,268.42

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.³ Military air transportation.

CHRIS COX, Chairman, Aug. 4, 2004.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, JOINT COMMITTEE ON PRINTING, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2004

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

BOB NEY, Chairman, Aug. 2, 2004.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, JOINT COMMITTEE ON TAXATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2004

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

CHUCK GRASSLEY, July 12, 2004.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2004

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Christopher Smith		4/4	USA				6,417.00				6,417.00
	4/5	4/7	Switzerland		1,416.00						1,416.00
Janice Helwig		4/11	USA				4,537.00				4,537.00
	4/12	6/30	Austria		21,109.00						21,109.00
Hon. Christopher Smith		4/23	USA				8,088.00				8,088.00
	4/24	4/27	Ireland		900.00						900.00
	4/27	4/29	Germany		686.00						686.00
Hon. Benjamin Cardin		4/22	USA				5,982.00				5,982.00
	4/23	4/24	Denmark		288.00						288.00
	4/24	4/26	Poland		502.00						502.00
	4/26	4/29	Germany		1,029.00						1,029.00

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2004—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Alcee Hastings	4/21	4/21	England								
	4/21	4/25	Denmark		1,352.00						1,352.00
	4/25	4/27	Lithuania		370.00						370.00
	4/27	4/30	Germany		1,029.00						1,029.00
Dorothy Taft		4/24	USA				6,527.00				6,527.00
	4/25	4/27	Lithuania		389.00						389.00
	4/27	4/30	Germany		712.00						712.00
Knox Thames		4/24	USA				5,357.00				5,357.00
	4/25	4/26	Poland		239.00						239.00
	4/26	4/30	Germany		1,101.00						1,101.00
Maureen Kaufmann		4/20	USA				6,553.00				6,553.00
	4/21	4/24	Denmark		1,071.00						1,071.00
	4/24	4/25	Poland		266.00						266.00
Ronald McNamara		4/23	USA				5,626.00				5,626.00
	4/24	4/27	Ireland		815.00						815.00
Janice Helwig		4/26	Austria				786.00				786.00
	4/26	4/30	Germany		1,048.00						1,048.00
Hon. Alcee Hastings		5/23	USA				5,811.00				5,811.00
	5/24	5/26	Austria		744.00						744.00
Mariene Kaufmann		5/29	USA				4,648.00				4,648.00
	5/30	6/5	Czech Republic		1,550.00						1,550.00
Erika Schlager		6/13	USA				5,981.00				5,981.00
	6/14	6/18	France		1,623.00						1,623.00
Janice Helwig		6/15	Austria				1,192.00				1,192.00
	6/15	6/18	France		927.00						927.00
Elizabeth Pryor		6/21	USA				4,595.00				4,595.00
	6/22	6/26	Austria		1,006.00						1,006.00
Committee total					40,172		72,100				112,272

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

CHRIS SMITH, Chairman, July 29, 2004.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS,
ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

9526. A letter from the Executive Director, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Exempt Commercial Markets — received July 30, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

9527. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, APHIS, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Importation of Unmanufactured Wood Articles From Mexico [Docket No. 98-054-3] (RIN: 0579-AB02) received August 30, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

9528. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, APHIS, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Brucellosis in Cattle; State and Area Classifications; Missouri [Docket No. 01-015-2] received August 30, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

9529. A letter from the Director, Legislative and Regulatory Activities Division, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Community Reinvestment Act Regulations [Docket No. 04-17] (RIN: 1557-AC86); Federal Reserve System [Regulation BB; Docket No. R-1205]; Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (RIN: 3064-AC82); Department of the Treasury, Office of Thrift Supervision [No. 2004-28] (RIN: 1550-AB91) received July 7, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

9530. A letter from the Senior Paralegal, Regulations, Office of Thrift Supervision, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Assessments and Fees [No. 2004-29] (RIN: 1550-AB47) received July 6, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

9531. A letter from the Assist. General Counsel for Regulations, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safe Schools/Healthy Students (RIN: 1865-ZA02) received August 2, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

9532. A letter from the Assist. General Counsel for Regulations, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools; Notice of Final Priority and Other Application Requirements [CFDA 84.184E] received August 2, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

9533. A letter from the Assist. General Counsel for Regulations, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools — Mentoring Programs (RIN: 1865-ZA00) received August 2, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

9534. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Office of the CFO, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Direct Grant Programs (RIN: 1890-AA09) received July 14, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

9535. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Direct Grant Programs (RIN: 1890-AA09) received July 14, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

9536. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule — Electronic Registration Requirements for Investment Advisers To Be Investment Managers Under Title I of ERISA (RIN: 1210-AA94) received August 30, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

9537. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management, De-

partment of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revision for the Department of Labor Acquisition Regulations (RIN: 1291-AA34) received May 21, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

9538. A letter from the Director, Corporate Policy and Research Dept., Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing and Paying Benefits — received July 12, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

9539. A letter from the FMCSA Regulatory Officer, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Parts and Accessories Necessary for Safe Operation; Fuel Systems [DOT Docket No. FMCSA-02-13589] (RIN: 2126-AA80) received June 16, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9540. A letter from the Deputy Division Chief, Pricing Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Federal-State Joint Conference On Accounting Issues [WC Docket No. 02-269]; 2000 Biennial Regulatory Review—Comprehensive Review of the Accounting Requirements and ARMIS Reporting Requirements for Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers: Phase II [CC Docket No. 00-199]; Jurisdictional Separations Reform and Referral to the Federal-State Joint Board [CC Docket No. 80-286]; Local Competition and Broadband Reporting [CC Docket No. 99-301] received August 9, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9541. A letter from the Assistant Administrator for Procurement, National Aeronautical and Space Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — NASA Grant and Cooperative Agreement Handbook—Property Reporting (RIN: 2700-AC79) received July 14, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Science.

9542. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting notification to terminate the national emergency with respect to Iraq in Executive Order 12722 of August 2, 1990, modified in Executive Order 13290 of March 20, 2003, Executive Order 13303 of May 22, 2003, and Executive Order 13315 of August 28, 2003, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1622(a); (H. Doc. No. 108—213); to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed.

9543. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Cuban Assets Control Regulations — received June 14, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on International Relations.

9544. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Clarification of Export Controls on Military Vehicles and Parts [Docket No. 040810235-4235-01] (RIN: 0694-AC91) received August 30, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on International Relations.

9545. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's final rule — Schedule of Fees for Consular Services, Department of State and Overseas Embassies and Consulates; Proposed Rule (RIN: 1400-AB94) received July 16, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on International Relations.

9546. A letter from the Director, Division for Strategic Human Resources Policy, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's "Major" final rule — Voluntary Early Retirement Under the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (RIN: 3206-AJ82) received June 28, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

9547. A letter from the Director, Division for Strategic Human Resources Policy, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule — Organization of the Government For Personnel Management, Overseas Employment, Temporary and Term Employment, Recruitment and Selection For Temporary and Term Appointments Outside the Register, Examining System, and Training (RIN: 3206-AJ99) received June 28, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

9548. A letter from the Director, Division for Strategic Human Resources Policy, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's "Major" final rule — Voluntary Early Retirement Under the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (RIN: 3206-AJ82) received June 28, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

9549. A letter from the Director, Division for Strategic Human Resources Policy, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule — Organization of the Government For Personnel Management, Overseas Employment, Temporary and Term Employment, Recruitment and Selection For Temporary and Term Appointments Outside the Register, Examining System, and Training (RIN: 3206-AJ99) received June 28, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

9550. A letter from the Under Secretary and Director, Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Changes in the Requirements for Amendment and Correction of Trademark Registrations [Docket No. 2003-T-023] (RIN: 0651-AB67) received August 30, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

9551. A letter from the Director, Regulations and Forms Services, Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Employment Authorization Documents [BCIS No. 2152-01] (RIN: 1615-AA63) received July 30, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

9552. A letter from the Acting Director, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Procedures for Implementation of the National Construction Safety Team Act [Docket No. 030421094-4155-02] (RIN: 0693-AB53) received July 7, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Science.

9553. A letter from the Assistant Administrator for Procurement, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Re-Issuance of NASA FAR Supplement Subchapter F (RIN: 2700-AC86) received July 7, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Science.

9554. A letter from the Director, Regulations Management, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Additional Disability or Death Due to Hospital Care, Medical or Surgical Treatment, Examination, Training and Rehabilitation Services, or Compensated Work Therapy Program (RIN: 2900-AK77) received July 30, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

9555. A letter from the Director, Regulations Management, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Copayments for Extended Care Services (RIN: 2900-AL49) received June 28, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

9556. A letter from the Director, Regulations Management, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, National Cemetery Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Eligibility for Burial in a National Cemetery for Surviving Spouses Who Remarry and New Philippine Scouts (RIN: 2900-AM00) received June 28, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 784. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to authorize appropriations for sewer overflow control grants; with an amendment (Rept. 108—675). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 4470. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to extend the authorization of appropriations for the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program from fiscal year 2005 to 2010 (Rept. 108—676). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 4688. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution

Control Act to reauthorize the Chesapeake Bay Program (Rept. 108—677). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 4731. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the National Estuary Program (Rept. 108—678). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 1084. A bill to provide liability protection to nonprofit volunteer pilot organizations flying for public benefit and to the pilots and staff of such organizations; with an amendment (Rept. 108—679). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 3369. A bill to provide immunity for nonprofit athletic organizations in lawsuits arising from claims of ordinary negligence relating to the passage or adoption of rules for athletic competitions and practices (Rept. 108—681). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 4571. A bill to amend Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure to improve attorney accountability, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 108—682). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. H.R. 4658. A bill to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to make certain improvements and technical corrections to that Act; with amendments (Rept. 108—683). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. SESSIONS: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 766. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4571) to amend rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure to improve attorney accountability, and for other purposes (Rept. 108—684). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. NORWOOD (for himself and Mr. ANDREWS):

H.R. 5063. A bill to amend the Federal Employees' Compensation Act to cover services provided to injured Federal workers by physician assistants and nurse practitioners, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota:

H.R. 5064. A bill to prohibit the giving or acceptance of payment for the placement of a child, or obtaining consent to adoption; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. CHRISTENSEN:

H.R. 5065. A bill to repeal certain sections of the Act of May 26, 1936, pertaining to the Virgin Islands; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. SESSIONS:

H.R. 5066. A bill to strengthen and enhance the prevention and prosecution of crimes using weapons of mass destruction, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SHAYS:

H.R. 5067. A bill to amend title 4 of the United States Code to prohibit the double

taxation of telecommuters and others who work at home; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. THORNBERRY (for himself and Ms. LOFGREN):

H.R. 5068. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to enhance cybersecurity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security (Select).

By Mr. THORNBERRY (for himself and Ms. LOFGREN):

H.R. 5069. A bill to enhance homeland security science and technology, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science.

By Mr. WEXLER:

H. Con. Res. 490. Concurrent resolution wishing William Jefferson Clinton a speedy recovery and acknowledging the importance of further research, funding, programs, and public education regarding heart disease; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. REYNOLDS (for himself, Mr. MATSUI, Mr. HASTERT, Mr. DELAY, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. HOYER, Ms. PRYCE of Ohio, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. OLVER, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. BOEHLERT, Mr. OWENS, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. HOUGHTON, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. ENGEL, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. McNULTY, Mr. WALSH, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. NADLER, Mr. HINCHAY, Mr. KING of New York, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. QUINN, Ms. VELAZQUEZ, Mrs. KELLY, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. FOSSELLA, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. SWEENEY, Mr. WEINER, Mr. ISRAEL, and Mr. BISHOP of New York):

H. Res. 765. A resolution expressing gratitude to the cities of Boston, Massachusetts, and New York City, New York, for their extraordinary hospitality and successful planning and hosting of the 2004 national political conventions; to the Committee on House Administration. considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BURTON of Indiana (for himself and Mr. WEXLER):

H. Res. 767. A resolution condemning the terrorist attack in Jakarta, Indonesia, that occurred on September 9, 2004; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mr. GALLEGLY (for himself, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. PITTS, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. PENCE, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. WOLF, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. TANCREDO, Mr. FALCOMA, and Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin):

H. Res. 768. A resolution calling on the United Nations Security Council to immediately consider and take appropriate action to respond to the growing threat that the ruling State Peace and Development Council in Burma poses to the Southeast Asia region and to the people of Burma; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mr. MEEHAN:

H. Res. 769. A resolution providing for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 2038) to reauthorize the assault weapons ban, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

Mr. MCKEON introduced a bill (H.R. 5070) for the relief of Ana Maria Moncayo-Gigax; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 175: Mr. COX.
H.R. 645: Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 792: Mr. WELLER.
H.R. 918: Mr. CRAMER, Mr. FILNER, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. REYES, Mr. MICHAUD, Ms. BERKLEY, Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mrs. KELLY, Mr. BELL, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. ALLEN, and Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island.
H.R. 1084: Mr. COBLE.
H.R. 1089: Mr. FROST, Mr. OWENS, Ms. LEE, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. SANDERS.
H.R. 1160: Mr. HULSHOF and Mr. BURGESS.
H.R. 1322: Ms. ESHOO.
H.R. 1534: Mr. MCINTYRE.
H.R. 1873: Mr. FEENEY.
H.R. 2028: Mr. NEUGEBAUER.
H.R. 2333: Mr. RADANOVICH.
H.R. 2627: Mr. TERRY.
H.R. 2628: Mr. MCINTYRE.
H.R. 2724: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 2868: Mr. BURR.
H.R. 3063: Mr. DELAHUNT.
H.R. 3242: Mr. HOLDEN and Ms. ESHOO.
H.R. 3352: Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 3436: Mr. MOORE.
H.R. 3455: Mr. ANDREWS and Mr. REYES.
H.R. 3484: Mr. SCHIFF.
H.R. 3579: Mr. ROHRABACHER and Mr. BURTON of Indiana.
H.R. 3767: Mr. PAYNE and Mr. SPRATT.
H.R. 3802: Mr. LOBIONDO.
H.R. 3805: Mr. STARK.
H.R. 4035: Mr. HOFFFEL.
H.R. 4052: Mr. MEEHAN.
H.R. 4110: Mr. WAXMAN and Ms. ESHOO.
H.R. 4111: Mr. LARSEN of Washington and Mr. CUMMINGS.
H.R. 4214: Mr. WEINER.
H.R. 4232: Mr. THORNBERRY.
H.R. 4256: Mr. CARDIN.
H.R. 4306: Mr. BOUCHER.
H.R. 4325: Mr. RAHALL.
H.R. 4343: Mr. GILLMOR.
H.R. 4354: Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.
H.R. 4366: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 4571: Mr. SHAYS and Mr. BROWN of South Carolina.
H.R. 4597: Mr. ALLEN.
H.R. 4610: Mr. ISRAEL and Mr. GILCHREST.
H.R. 4634: Mr. BONNER and Ms. HARRIS.
H.R. 4658: Mr. FILNER, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. HERSETH, and Ms. BORDALLO.
H.R. 4701: Mr. ANDREWS.
H.R. 4772: Mr. LEVIN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. ETHERIDGE, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
H.R. 4849: Mr. PAUL and Mr. CANTOR.
H.R. 4875: Mr. SCOTT of Georgia and Mr. MCINTYRE.
H.R. 4881: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia and Ms. LEE.
H.R. 4902: Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. GOODE, and Mr. JOHN.
H.R. 4944: Mr. REHBERG.
H.R. 4956: Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. JEFFERSON, and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 4961: Mr. MCHUGH.
H.R. 4978: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 5024: Mr. SCOTT of Georgia.
H.R. 5027: Mr. DEUTSCH.
H.R. 5040: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.
H.R. 5061: Mr. PENCE.
H.J. Res. 98: Ms. ESHOO.
H. Con. Res. 213: Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island.
H. Con. Res. 306: Ms. CARSON of Indiana.
H. Con. Res. 321: Mr. KING of New York.
H. Con. Res. 392: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H. Con. Res. 402: Mr. SENSENBRENNER.
H. Con. Res. 473: Mr. GILCHREST and Mr. WOLF.

H. Res. 103: Ms. DELAURO.
H. Res. 174: Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island.
H. Res. 556: Mr. LEWIS of California.
H. Res. 690: Mr. FARR, Mr. DICKS and Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California.
H. Res. 717: Ms. CARSON of Indiana.
H. Res. 744: Mr. MCDERMOTT.
H. Res. 755: Mr. FROST.
H. Res. 760: Mr. WEXLER.

AMENDMENTS

Under clause 8 of rule XVIII, proposed amendments were submitted as follows:

H.R. 5025

OFFERED BY: Mr. HEFLEY

AMENDMENT No. 1: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: SEC. _____. Each amount appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act that is not required to be appropriated or otherwise made available by a provision of law is hereby reduced by 1 percent.

H.R. 5025

OFFERED BY: Mr. DAVIS of FLORIDA

AMENDMENT No. 2: At the end of the bill, before the short title, insert the following:

SEC. _____. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to implement, administer, or enforce the amendments made to section 515.560 or 515.561 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations (relating to travel-related transactions incident to travel to Cuba and visiting relatives in Cuba), as published in the Federal Register on June 16, 2004.

(b) The limitation in subsection (a) shall not apply to the implementation, administration, or enforcement of section 515.560(c)(3) of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations.

H.R. 5025

OFFERED BY: Mr. OXLEY

AMENDMENT No. 3: Strike section 216 (relating to identification accepted by financial institutions).

H.R. 5025

OFFERED BY: Mr. KENNEDY of MINNESOTA

AMENDMENT No. 4: Page 33, line 24, insert after the dollar amount the following: "(reduced by \$300,000,000)".

Page 89, line 24, insert after the dollar amount the following: "(increased by \$300,000,000)".

H.R. 5025

OFFERED BY: Mr. SANDERS

AMENDMENT No. 5: At the end of the bill, insert after the last section (preceding the short title) the following new section:

SEC. _____. None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used to assist in overturning the judicial ruling contained in the Memorandum and Order of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Illinois entered on July 31, 2003, in the action entitled Kathi Cooper, Beth Harrington, and Matthew Hillesheim, Individually and on Behalf of All Those Similarly Situated vs. IBM Personal Pension Plan and IBM Corporation (Civil No. 99-829-GPM).

H.R. 5025

OFFERED BY: Mr. SANDERS

AMENDMENT No. 6: At the end of the bill, insert after the last section (preceding the short title) the following new section:

SEC. _____. None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used to assert or argue in a judicial proceeding that a particular defined benefit pension plan does not violate

section 411(b)(1)(H)(i) or section 411(d)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, section 204(b)(1)(G) or 204(b)(1)(H)(i) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, or section 4(i)(1)(A) of the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967.

H.R. 5025

OFFERED BY: MR. SANDERS

AMENDMENT NO. 7: At the end of the bill, insert after the last section (preceding the short title) the following new section:

SEC. _____. None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used to assist in over-

turning any judicial ruling on section 411(b)(1)(H)(i) or section 411(d)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, section 204(b)(1)(G) or 204(b)(1)(H)(i) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, or section 4(i)(1)(A) of the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967.